



10

JOE MADUREIRA

LUDO LULLABI

BATTLE CHASER





GULLY

Gully is a young girl on a quest to find her missing father, Aramus. She has recently come into possession of her father's gauntlets which grant her superhuman strength and invulnerability. She's been hunted ever since...



GARRISON

A fallen Martial Paladin turned sellword. Once loyal to the missing hero Aramus, Garrison struggles to escape his own violent past. His refusal to bring Red Monika to justice has made him an enemy of the kingdom.



RED MONIKA

A wanted fugitive, the notorious outlaw Red Monika will do anything for fame and fortune, especially if she's taking it from someone else. Longtime friend and foe of Garrison, whichever suits her current needs, Monika always brings trouble.



CALIBRETTO

An ancient wargolem built for battle, Calibretto developed his own sentience and was saved from persecution by the wizard Knolan. Though a kind and nurturing protector, 'Bretto' commands an arsenal of destructive firepower capable of handling any threat to his friends, most notably Gully, with whom he's formed an unusual bond.



KNOLAN

Quick of wit and tough as nails, the old wizard Knolan has seen it all. With a huge spellbook and a short temper, he is far more dangerous than he first appears. He is rumored to be hundreds of years old, and few are alive who know him or his true origin.



MAESTRO

Garrison's former mentor and leader of the Martial Paladins. He's been tasked with returning Garrison to Capital City by any means necessary.



MARTIAL PALADINS

Historically a line of supernaturally gifted warriors and defenders of the kingdom, the Paladins have devolved into a band of ruthless mercenaries of late, under the rule of King Vaneer. Maestro struggles to control them...



SEBASTIAS NEFAR

A mysterious shape-shifter who claims to be Aramus' eldest child and true heir to his legendary gauntlets. After unleashing an evil entity on Capital City and seizing the gloves, he was crippled and imprisoned. He is currently awaiting his fate in Vaneer's military prison.

THE STORY SO FAR...

The world of *Gaia* is *dying*. **MANA**, the natural resource which powers everything from magic to machines, is fading—harvested to dangerous scarcity. Tensions are mounting across the **CIVIL TERRITORIES** as every nation seeks to maintain its hold on what little remains.

Amid the conflict, **GULLY**, young daughter of the missing hero **ARAMUS** is hunted by a pack of ferocious Lyclots posing as trackers. She manages to elude them, protecting a mysterious **MAGICALLY-SEALED** box her father left her, fleeing into the woods--the supernatural hunters hot on her trail!

Gully is saved by a Wargolem named **CALIBRETTO** who easily dispatches her pursuers and takes her to **KNOLAN**, a reclusive wizard whose magic unlocks her father's chest—revealing his legendary gauntlets contained within. When her attackers discover her location, Gully is forced to use the gloves to defeat them. Knolan advises they head to Capital City to speak with **KING VANEER**, who has been actively looking for Gully's father and might better protect her.

On their way they are ambushed by **GARRISON**, a disgraced swordsman and former **MARTIAL PALADIN**, who attempts to rescue Gully believing she is held captive. Realizing she is in safe company, they head off together to Capital City.

Meanwhile, the notorious outlaw **RED MONIKA** takes a job from a mysterious employer--to break a prisoner out of **SKYHOLD**, a floating prison colony in the sky-nation of Isobar. She succeeds, but a freak accident causes an explosion that allows other, more dangerous criminals to escape.

Gully, Garrison, Knolan, and Calibretto arrive in Capital City to consult with King Vaneer, but the city comes under attack by Skyhold's escaped super-criminals. Thanks to Gully's gloves and the help of her new friends, the villains are routed, but the battle devastates the city. Taking advantage of the chaos, **SEBASTIUS NEFAR**, claiming to be the **SON OF ARAMUS**, manages to seize the gloves and attempts to use them...but loses both hands as a result.

Skyhold's governing nation of Isobar threatens war unless Red Monika is brought to justice, and a large bounty is placed on her head. King Vaneer orders Garrison to hunt her or risk leaving the task to the brutal Martial Paladins. When Garrison refuses, Vaneer calls on **MAESTRO**, leader of the Martial Paladins, to hunt Garrison and Monika both.

Red Monika delivers the freed prisoner to her mysterious employer whom she discovers is **LORD AUGUST**, a feared enemy of the kingdom long thought to be dead. She narrowly survives the exchange. Her loyal partner **AKIMAN** helps her escape, bringing her to Garrison's home.

But the Martial Paladins are already lying in wait...

JOE MADUREIRA

STORY

LUDO LULLABI

ART

RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT'S TYLER SMITH
LETTERS

JOE MADUREIRA
LUDO LULLABI
J SCOTT CAMPBELL
HUMBERTO RAMOS
CHRIS BACHALO
MIRKA ANDOLFO
SKOTTIE YOUNG
COVERS

BATTLE CHASERS
CREATED BY
JOE MADUREIRA

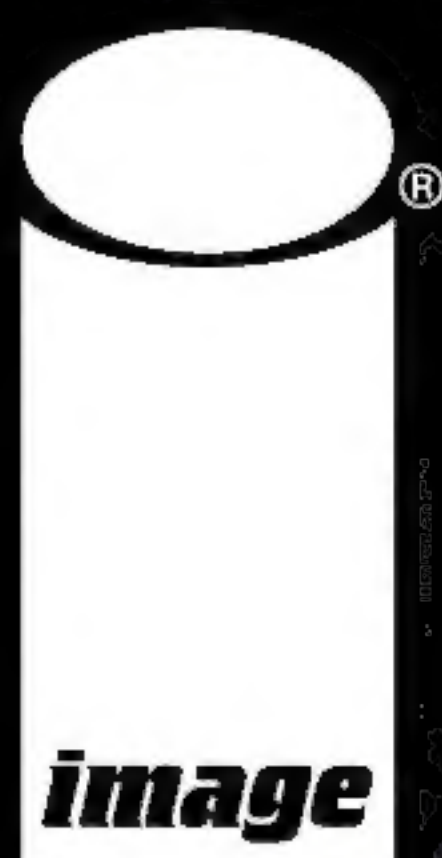


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Sirene Valley.
Garrison's home.
Dusk.

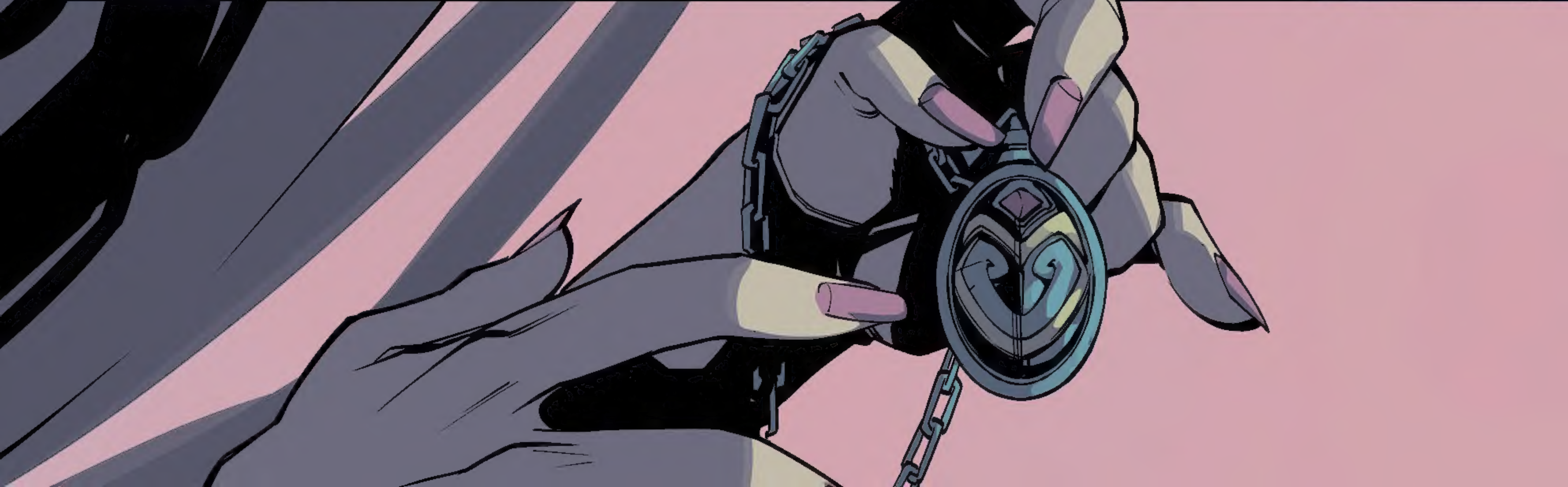
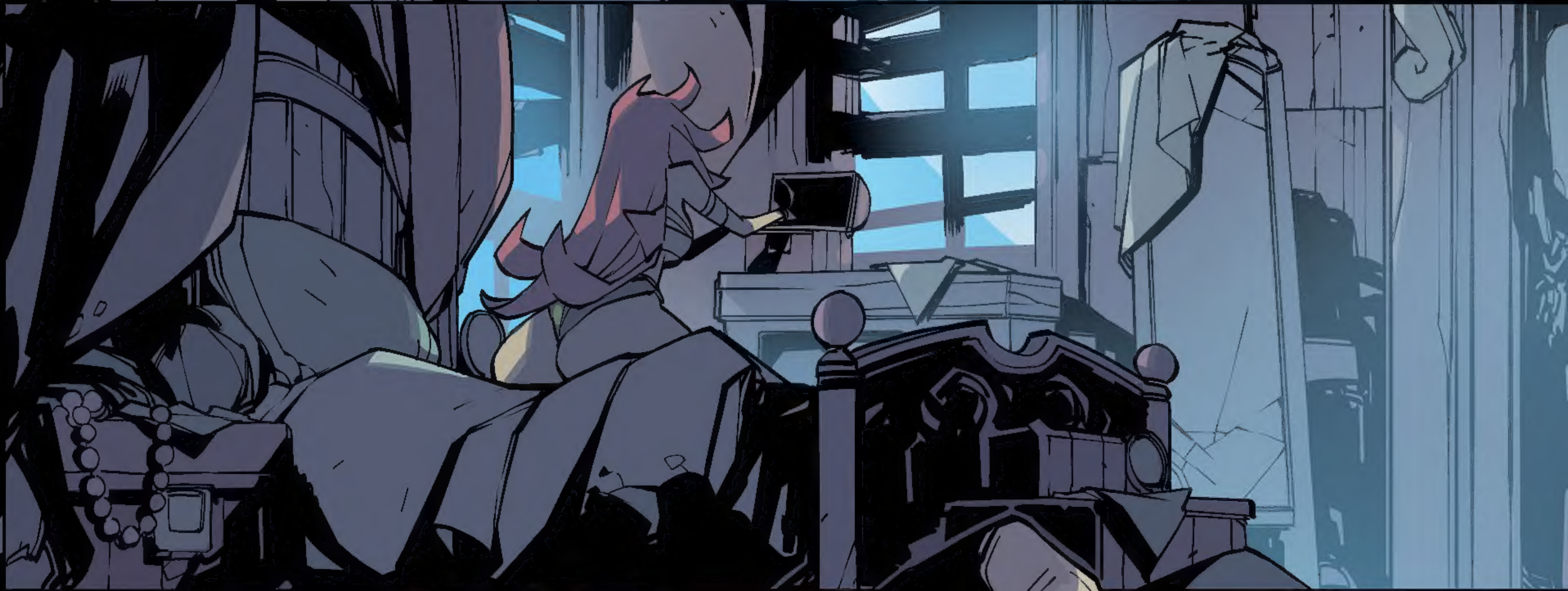
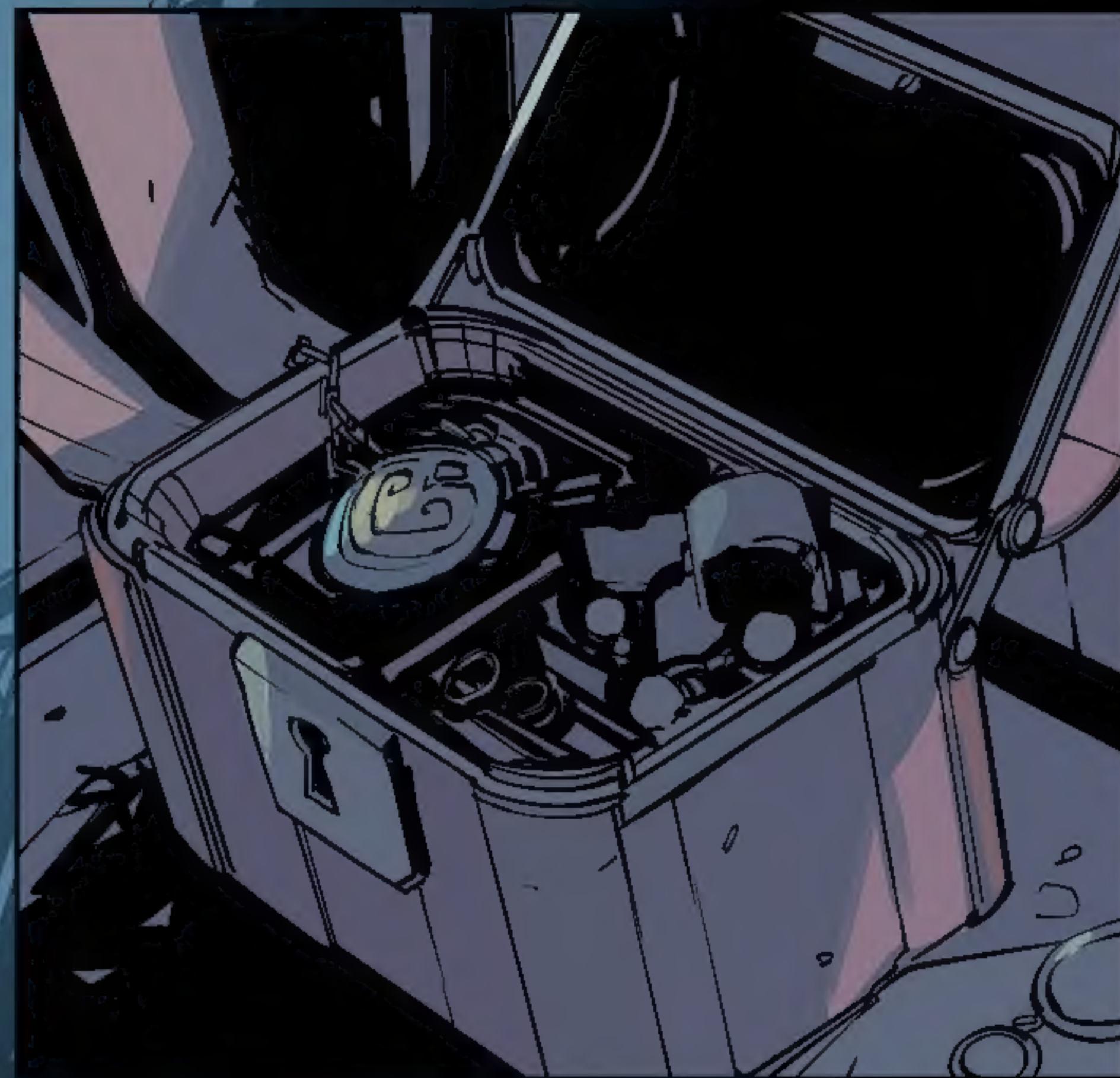
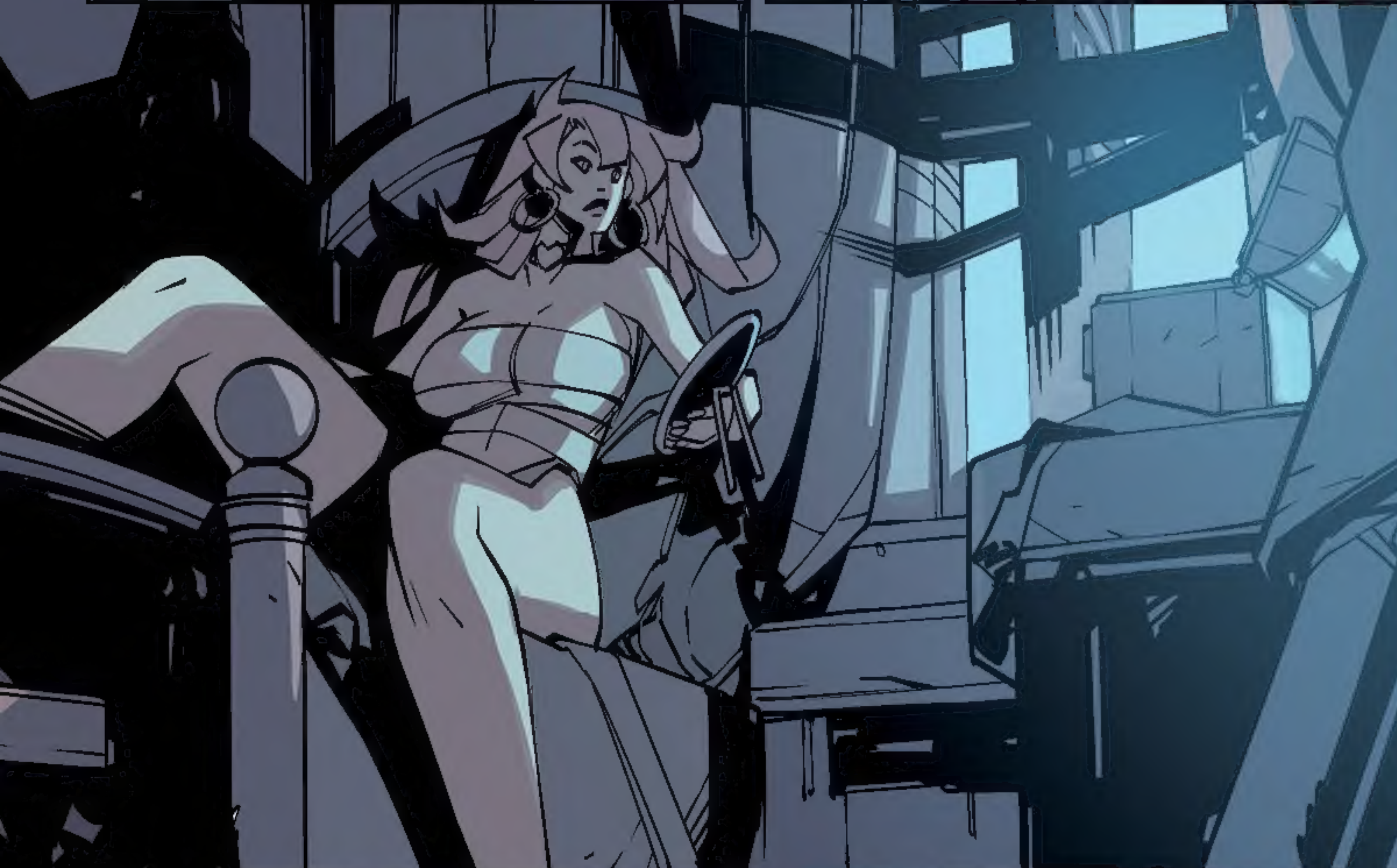
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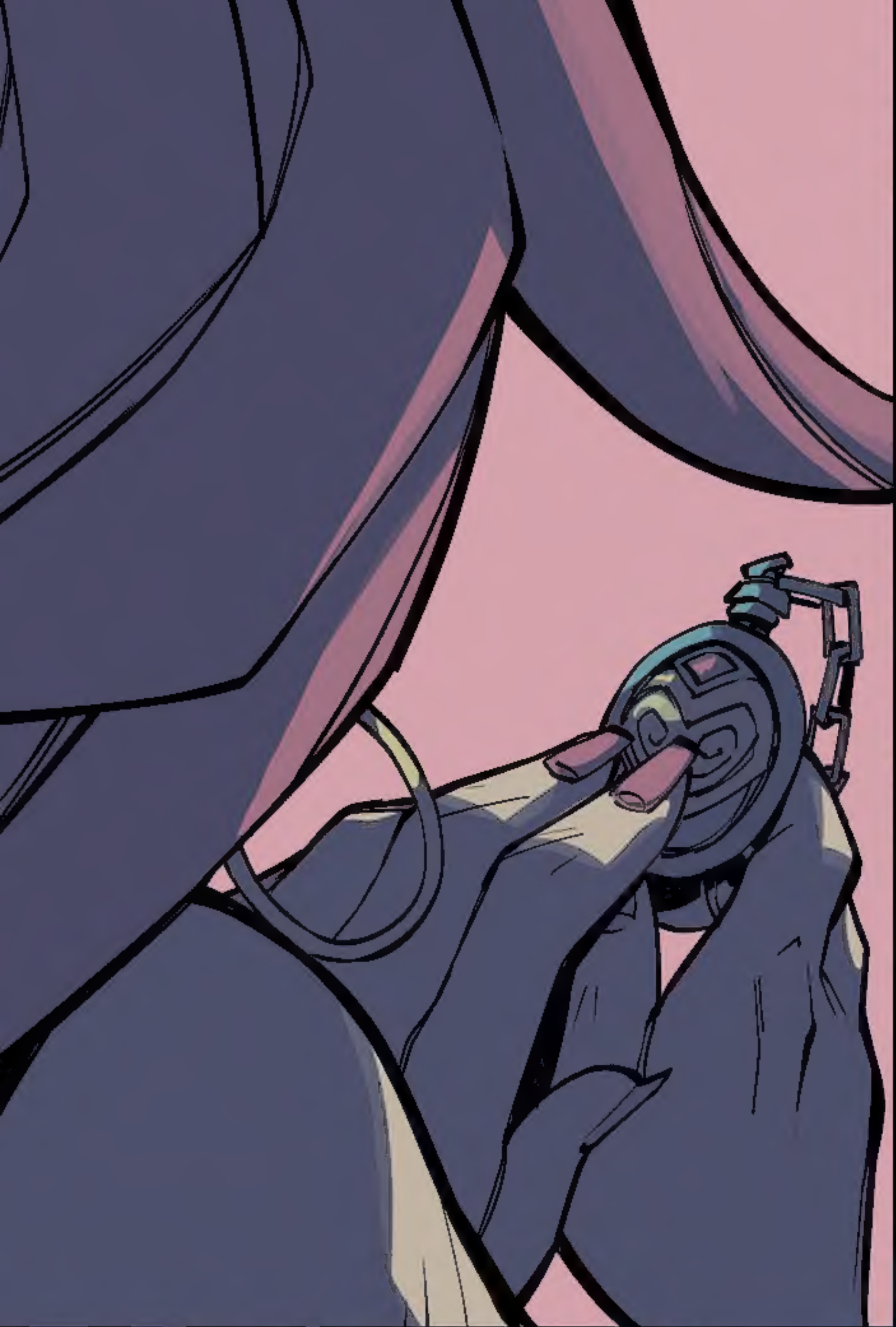
STUPID.

STUPID.

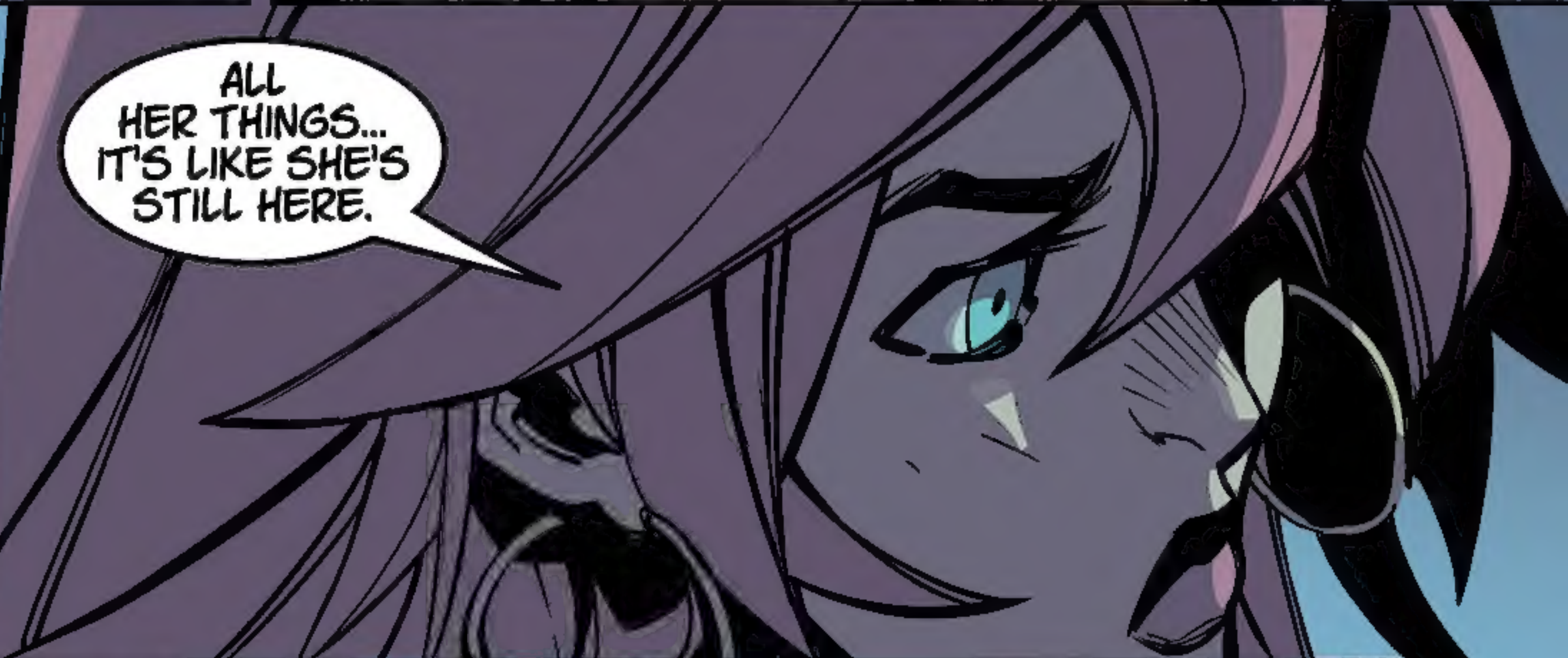
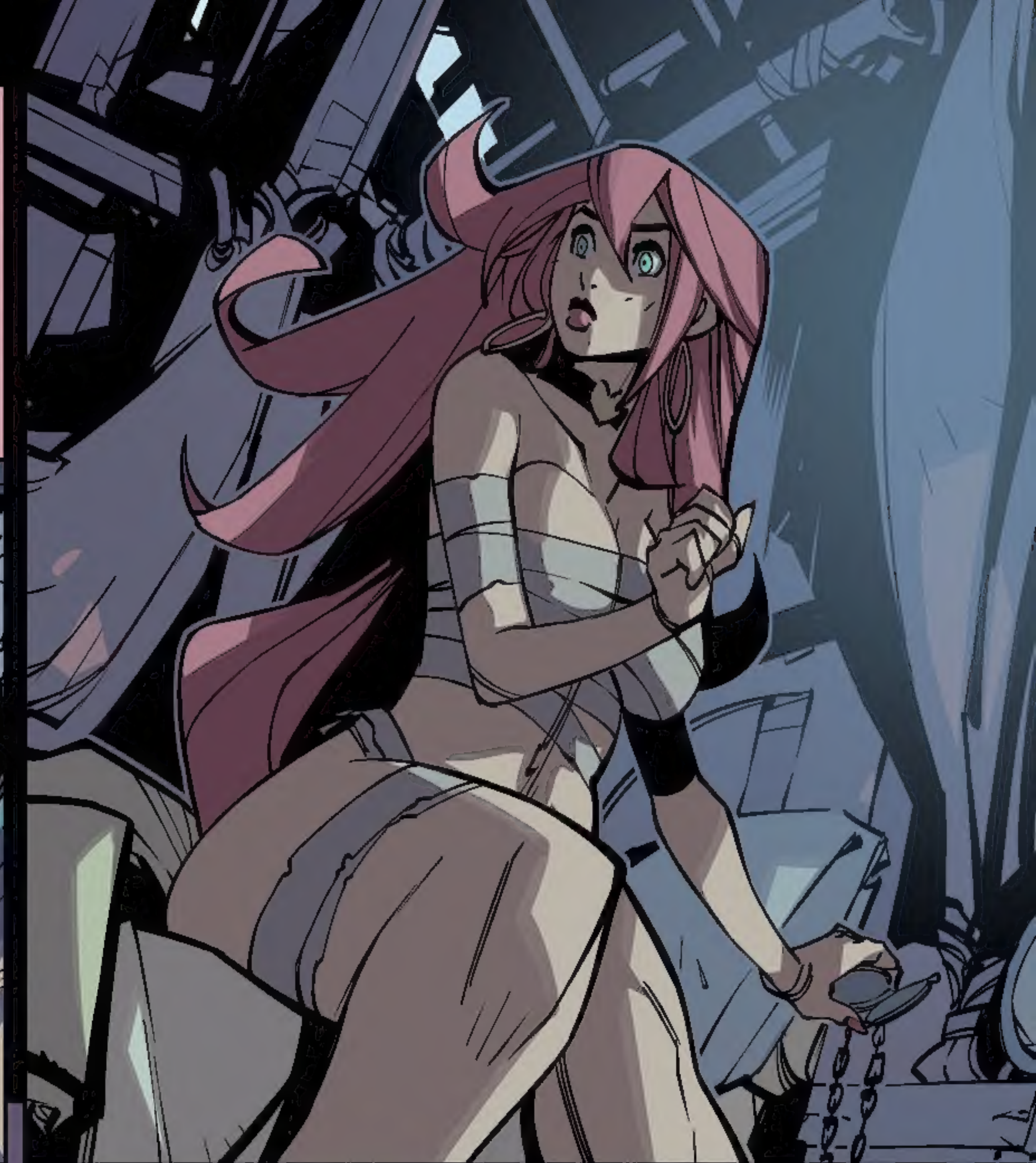
DOUBLE-CROSSED,
HUMILIATED, AND
OF ALL THE PLACES
TO CRAWL BACK
TO...

RED,
YOU'VE REACHED
A NEW LOW.





CLIKT



ALL
HER THINGS...
IT'S LIKE SHE'S
STILL HERE.



HOW
MANY YEARS
HAS IT
BEEN...?



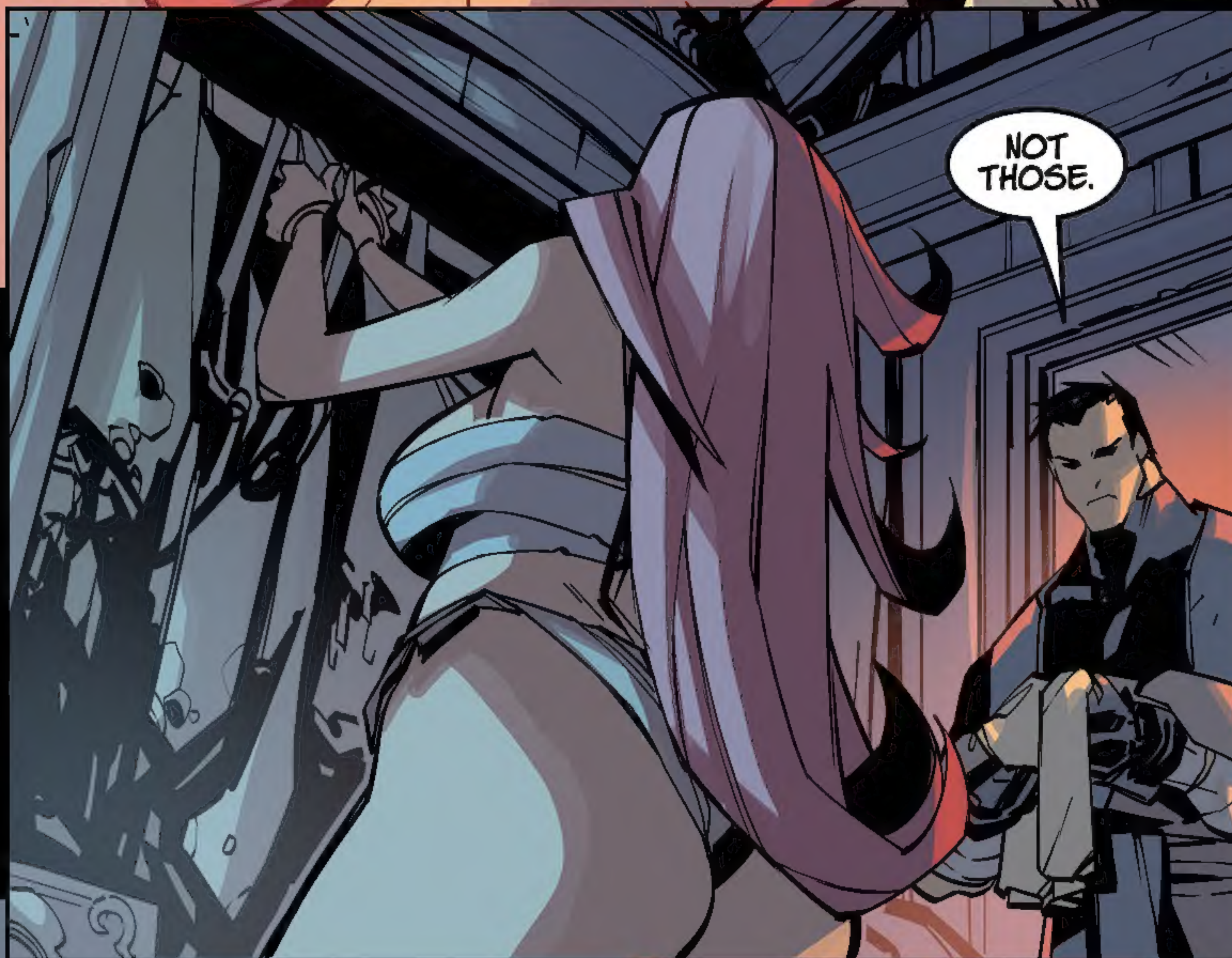


YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME
HERE.



CLEARLY.

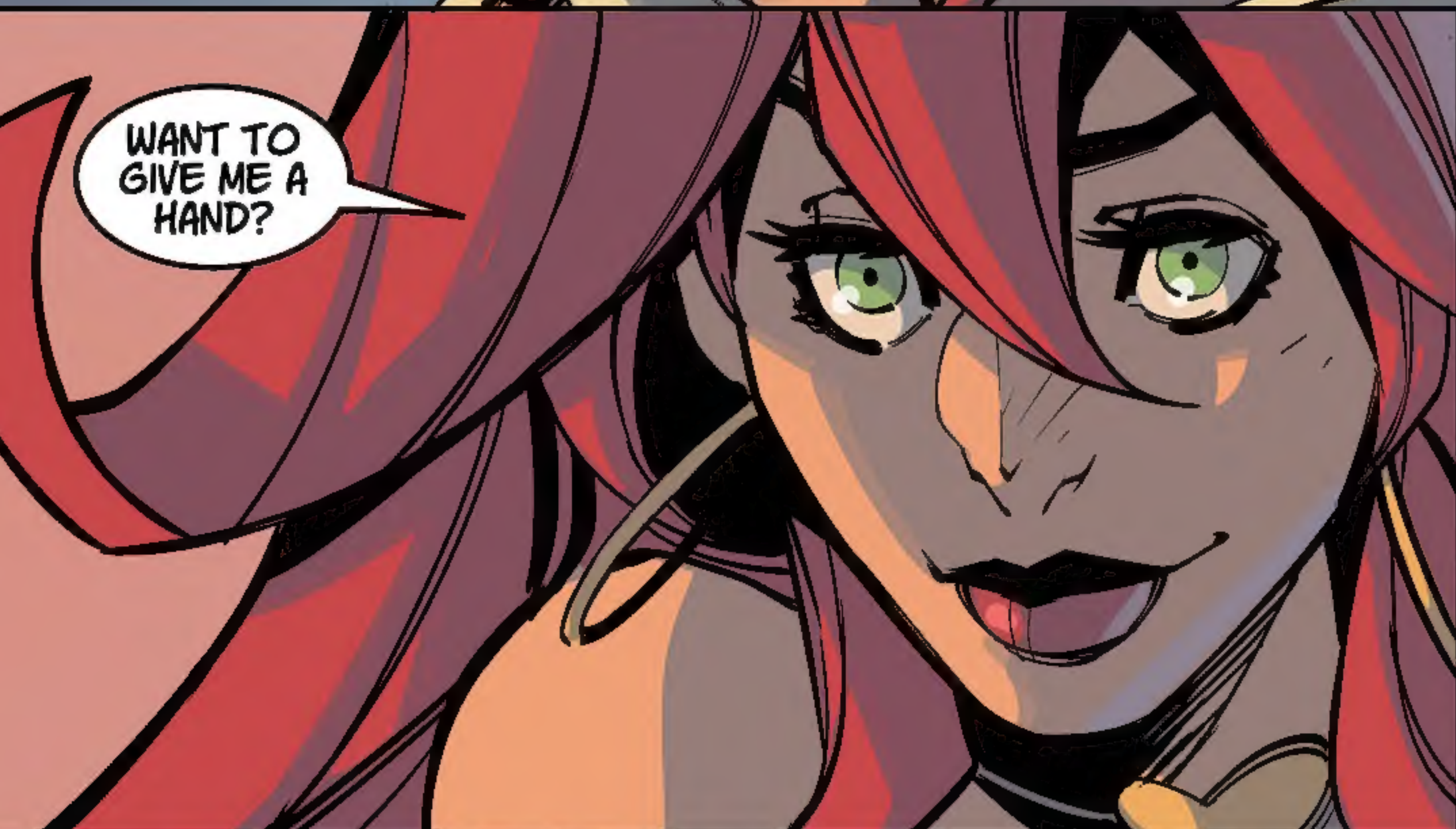
I'LL
THROW ON
SOME CLOTHES
AND GO.



NOT
THOSE.



I'LL...
MAKE THESE
WORK.



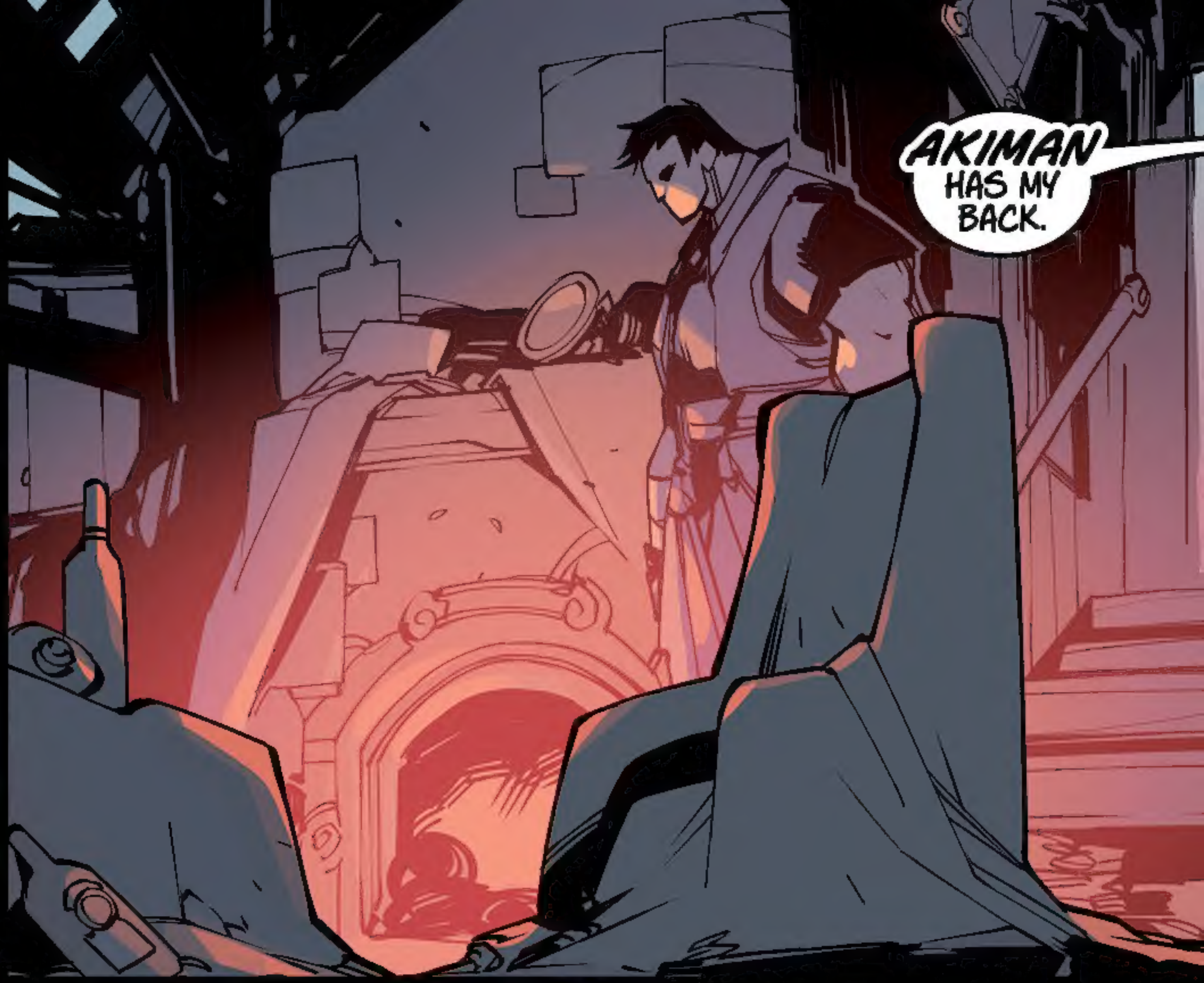
WANT TO
GIVE ME A
HAND?



YOU WERE
FOLLOWED.



DON'T
WAIT FOR YOUR
HENCHMAN.



AKIMAN
HAS MY
BACK.

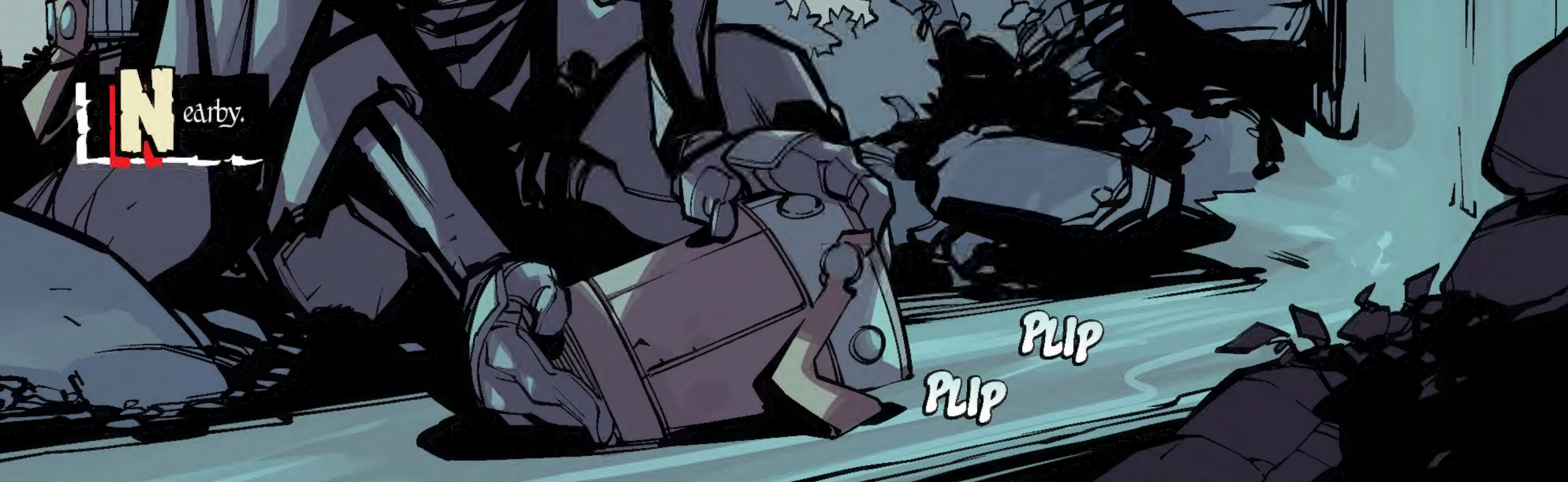


IF WE *WERE*
FOLLOWED, WE'LL
HANDLE IT!



CHANCES
ARE IT'S JUST
YOU NOW.





PLIP
PLIP



HissSSSS

?!



CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM



THIP

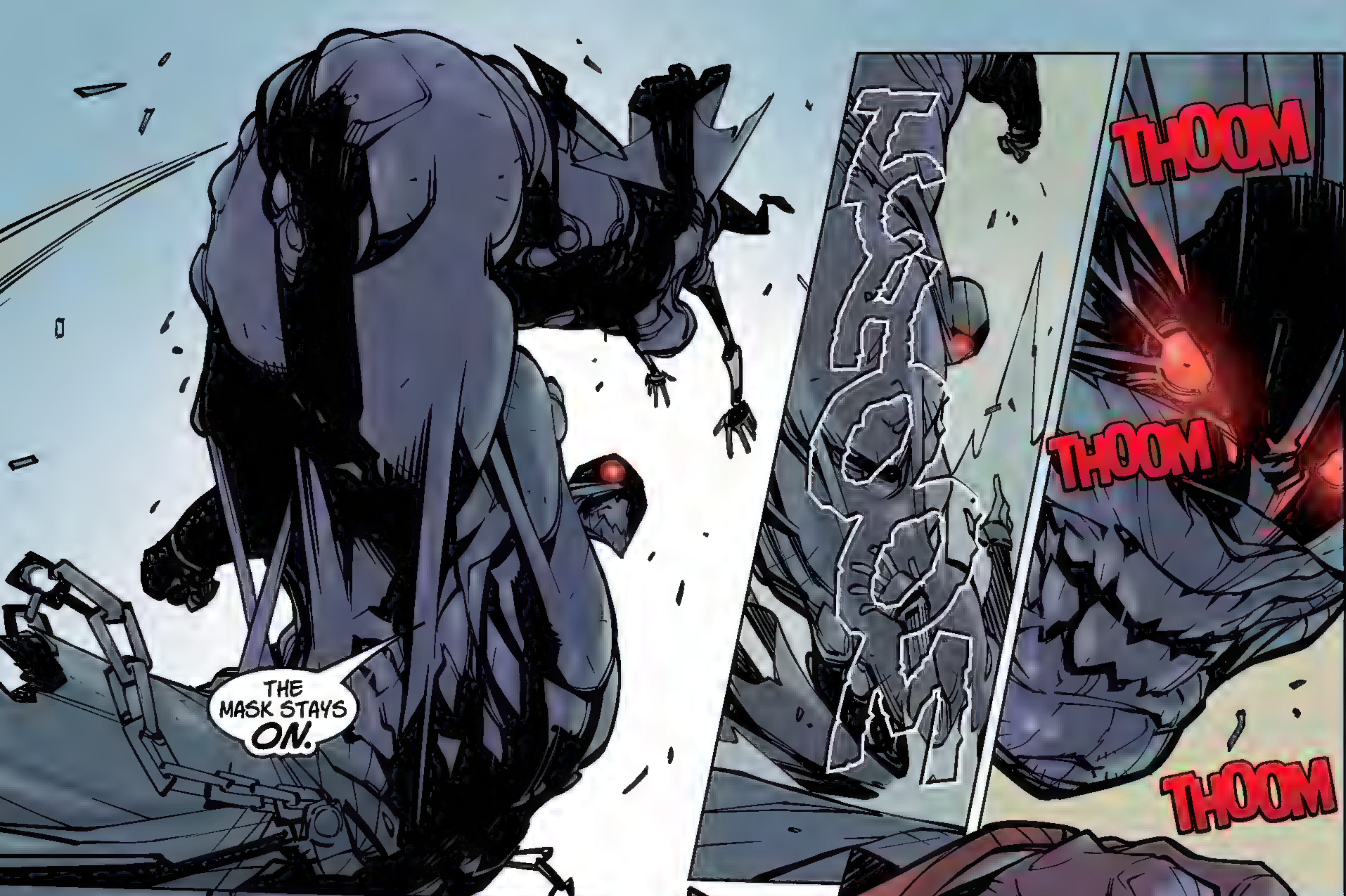
THIP

THIP

THWUNK

SKLURCH

NOPE.



THE
MASK STAYS
ON.

THOOM

THOOM

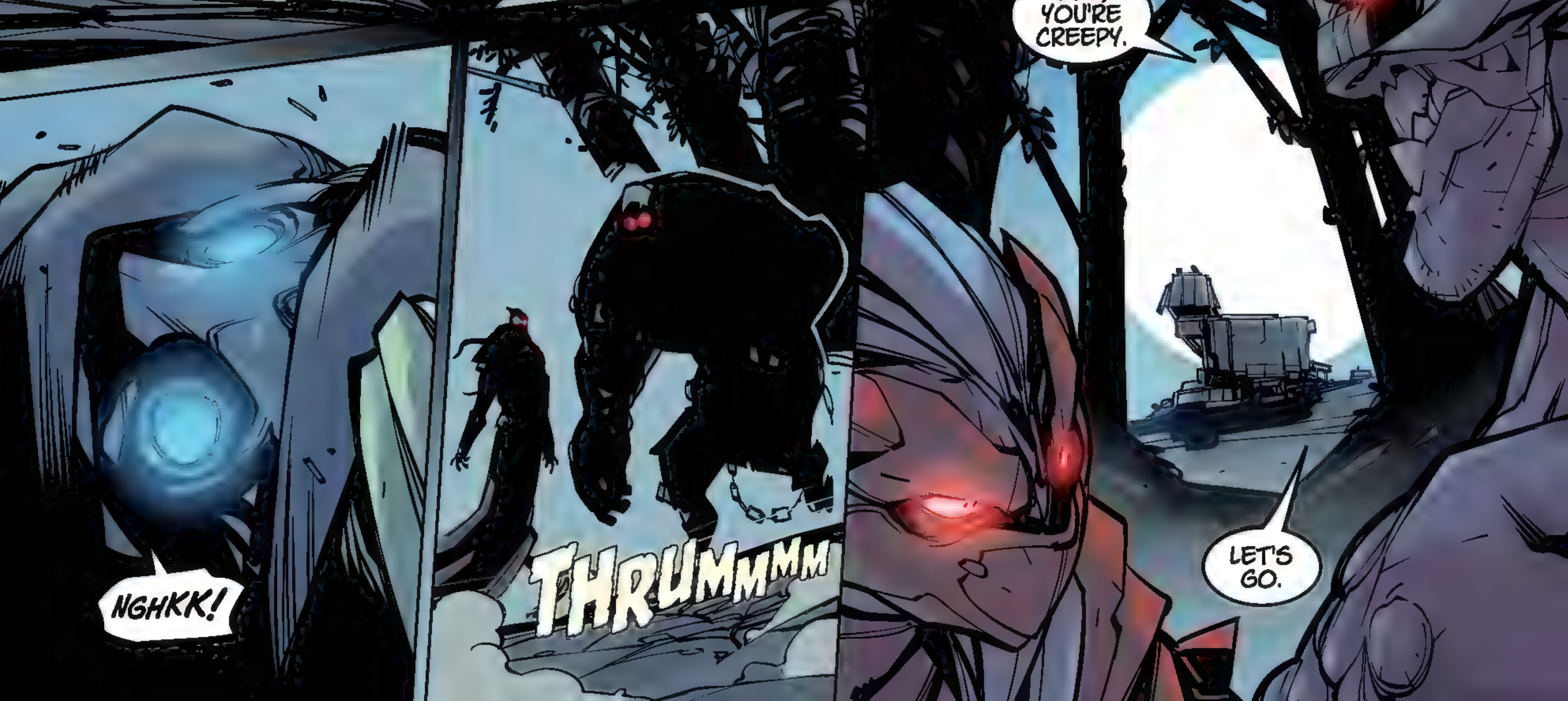
THOOM



GET RID
OF HIM. WE'RE
GONNA MISS
THE FUN.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE



GOD,
YOU'RE
CREEPY.

LET'S
GO.

NGHKK!

THRUMMMM

Nearby.

SO,
MAESTRO.
WHAT'S THE
MOVE?

WE HAVEN'T
WORKED TOGETHER
BEFORE, I GET IT.
BUT YOU'VE HEARD OF ME.
YOU KNOW WHAT I DO.
THE GIRL'S IN ROUGH
SHAPE, I CAN SMELL
IT FROM HERE.

CHKT

**GLUG
GLUG
GLUG**

LET ME
FINISH
HER. WE'LL SPLIT
THE BOUNTY. TAKE
GARRISON
ALIVE, LIKE WE
AGREED.

TOUCH
MONIKA,
AND THERE'S NO
CHANCE OF THAT
HAPPENING.

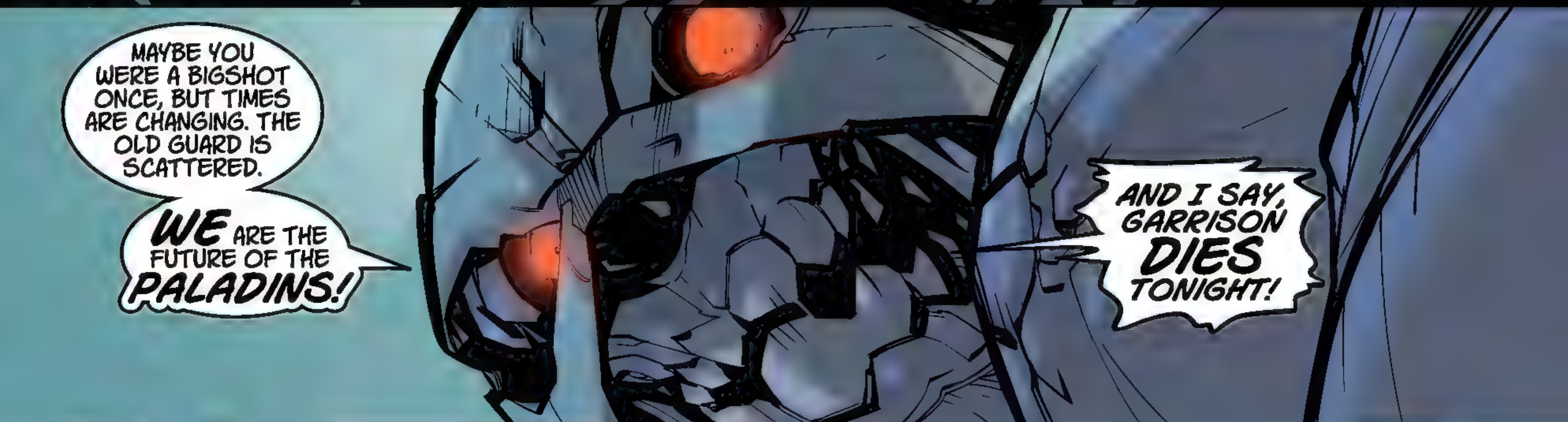
WE NEED
HER ALIVE.
FOR NOW.



YOU'RE
PROTECTING
HIM?!



GRAVE,
STAND
DOWN.



MAYBE YOU
WERE A BIGSHOT
ONCE, BUT TIMES
ARE CHANGING. THE
OLD GUARD IS
SCATTERED.

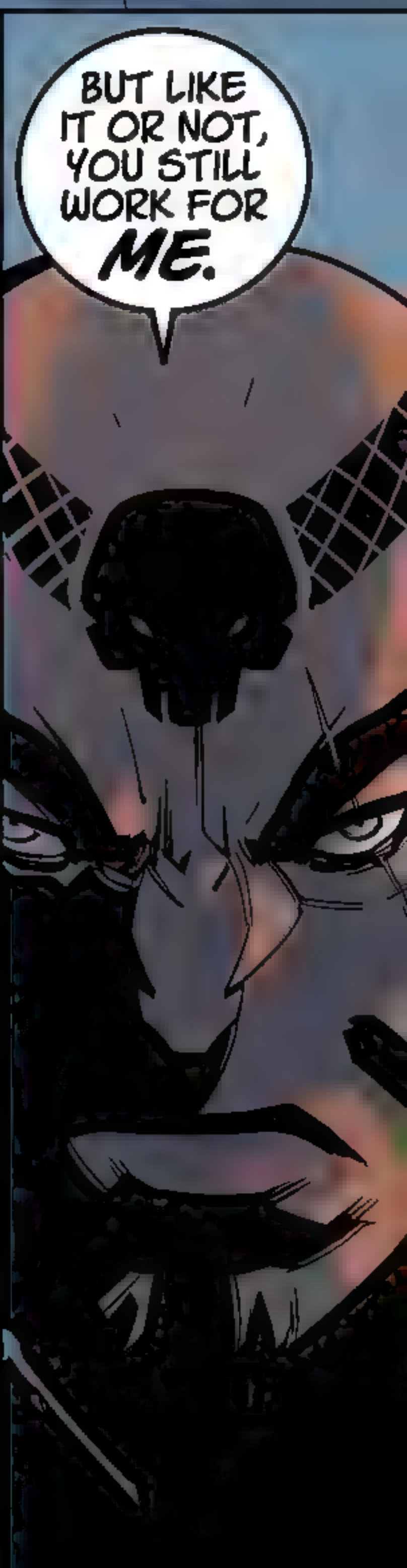
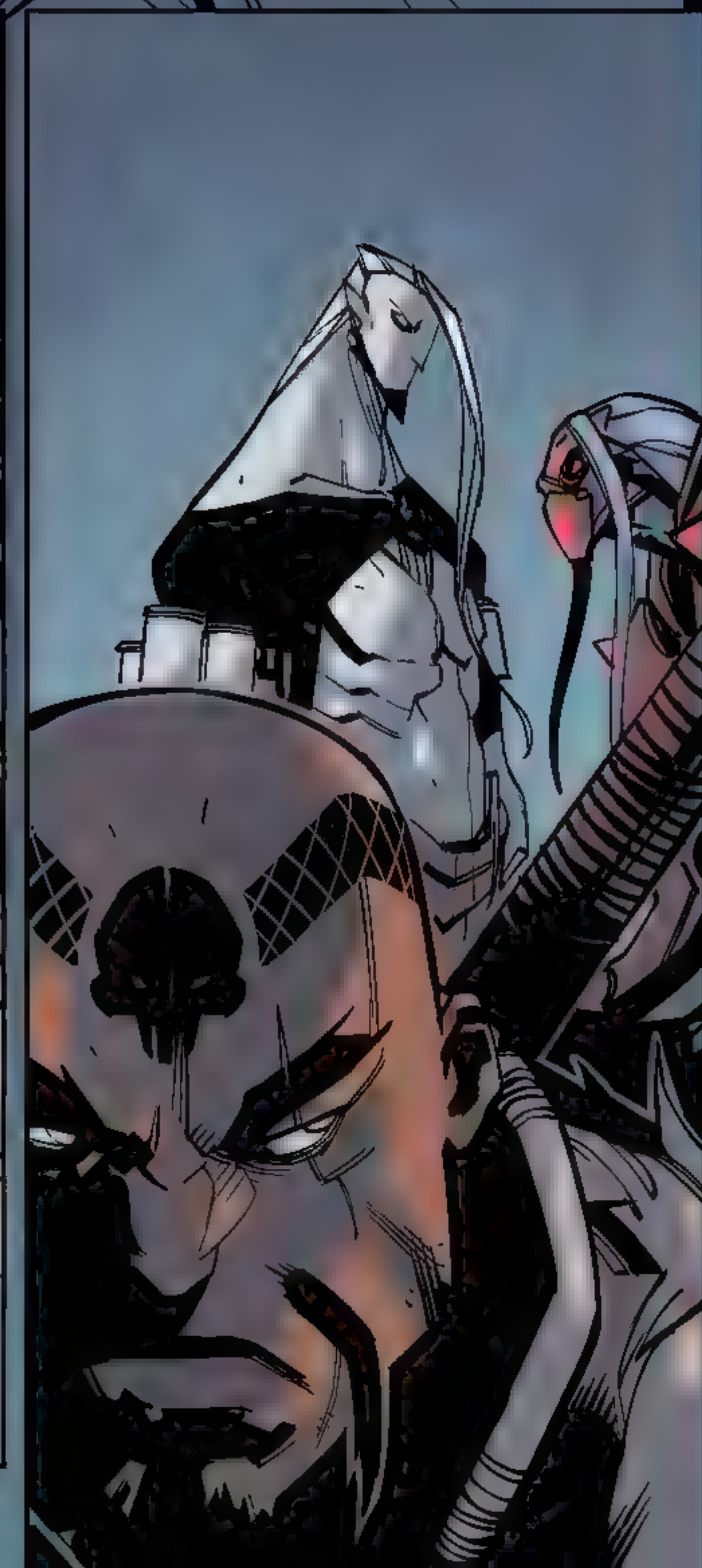
WE ARE THE
FUTURE OF THE
PALADINS!

AND I SAY,
GARRISON
DIES
TONIGHT!



IT'S **TRUE**,
THE **MARTIAL**
PALADINS
I KNEW ARE
LONG GONE.

NOW, WE
HAVE **YOU...**
CRIMINALS
AND **WORSE.**



BUT LIKE
IT OR NOT,
YOU STILL
WORK FOR
ME.



HEH.
WE'RE *WOLVES*,
OLD-TIMER. YOU'RE
ONLY TOP DOG
AS LONG AS YOU
CAN DEFEND
THE TITLE.

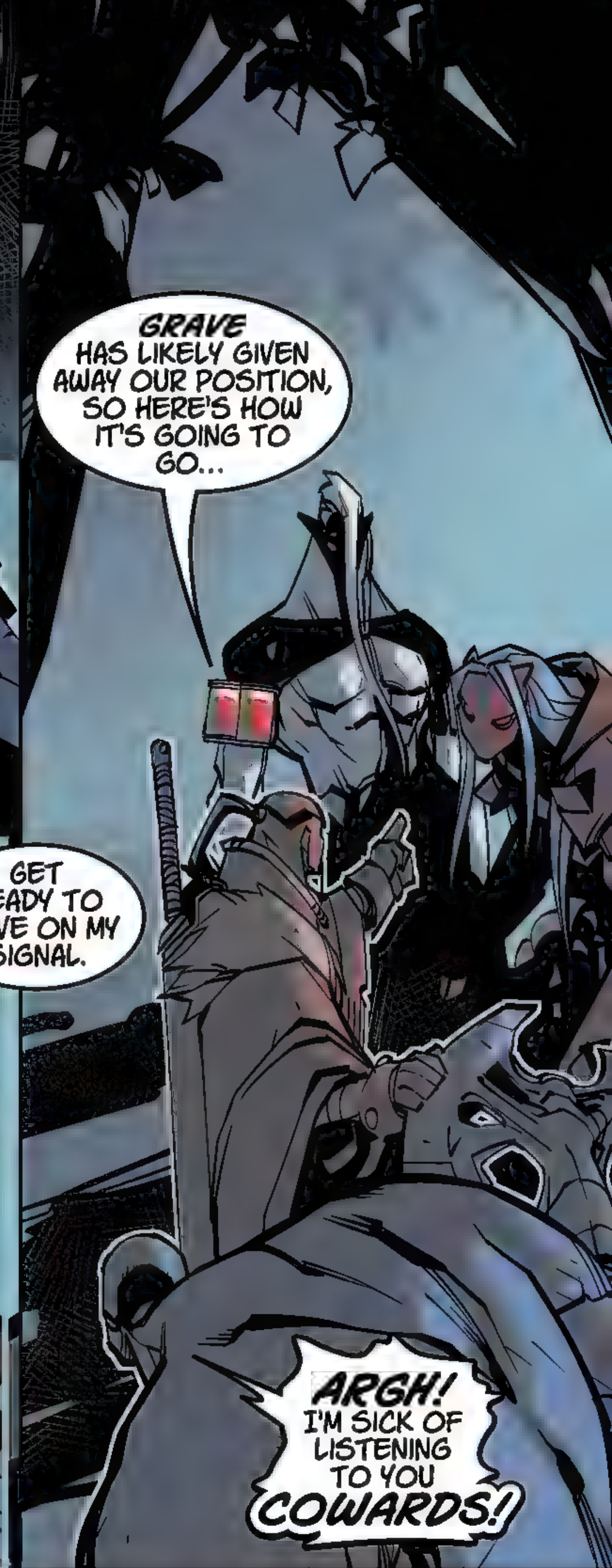
GRAVE
HAS LIKELY GIVEN
AWAY OUR POSITION,
SO HERE'S HOW
IT'S GOING TO
GO...



HOW
MUCH FIGHT
IS LEFT IN YOU
I WONDER?



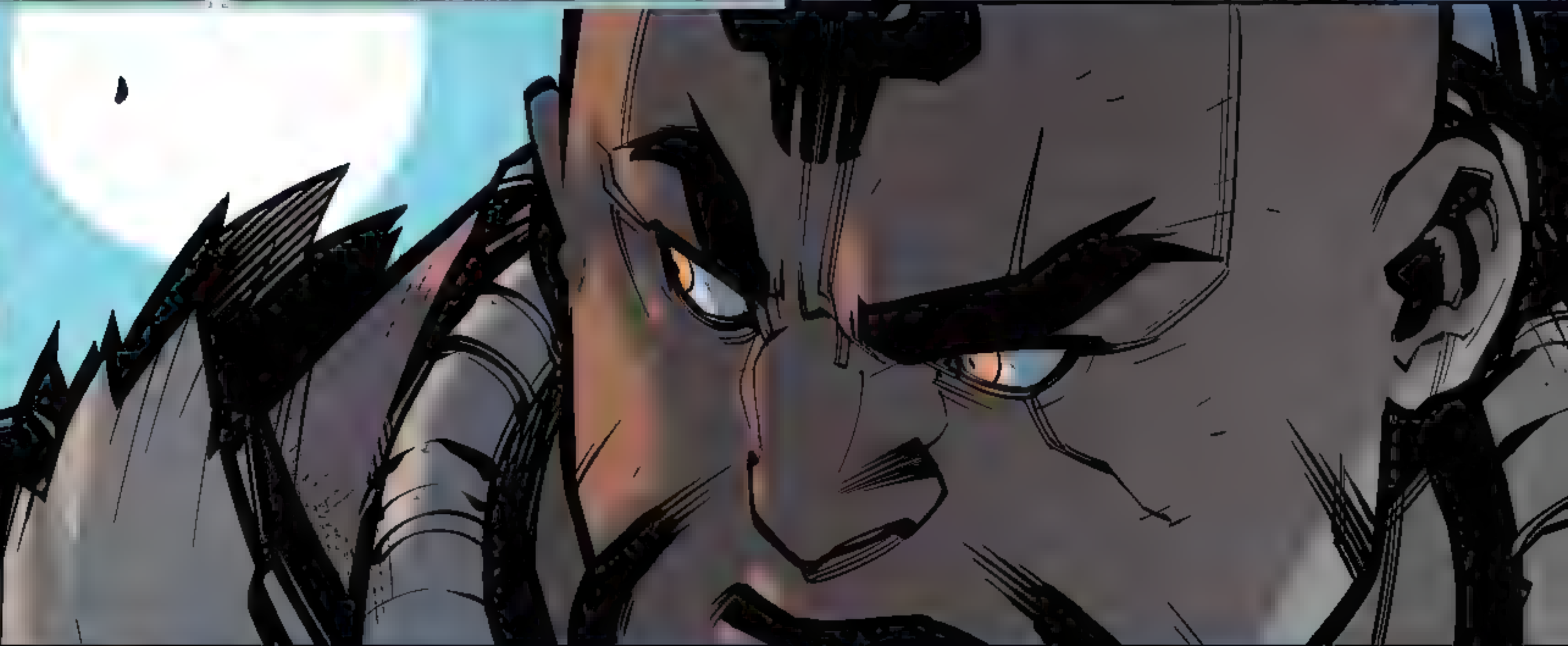
GET
READY TO
MOVE ON MY
SIGNAL.



ARGH!
I'M SICK OF
LISTENING
TO YOU
COWARDS!



**GARRISON'S
MINE!**



LEECH,
COVER THE HOUSE.
SIN, WITH ME.



KL-CHAK

GARRISON!!

WE ARE
TRESPASSING
ON HALLOWED
GROUND

GET
OUT HERE
SO I CAN
BURY
YOU!!

TREAD LIGHTLY

TLK

PFET

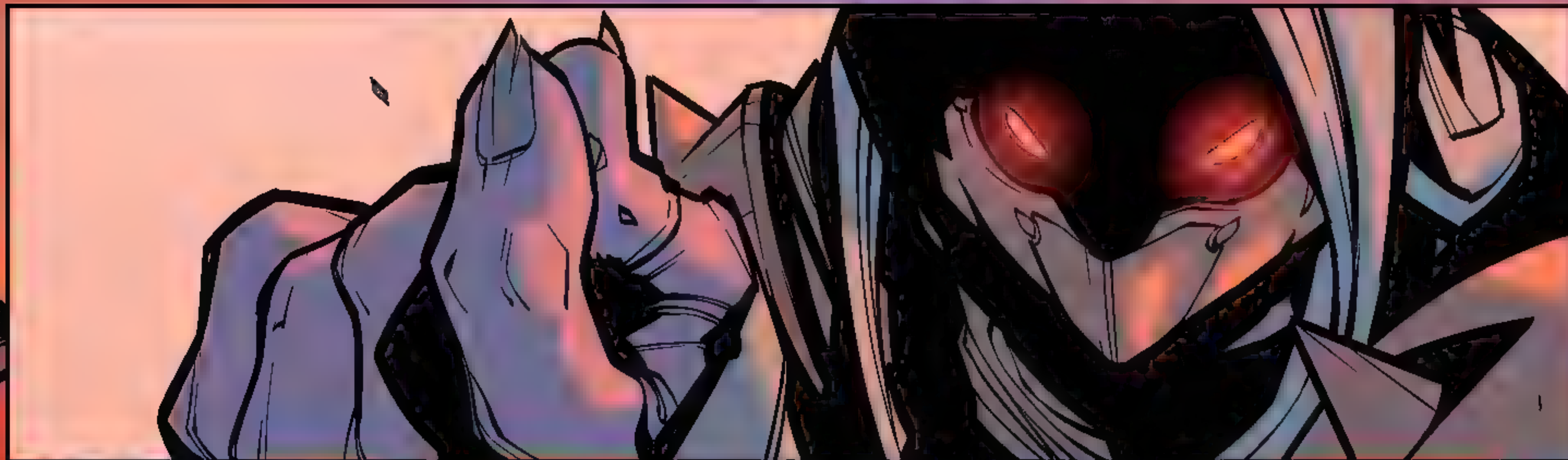
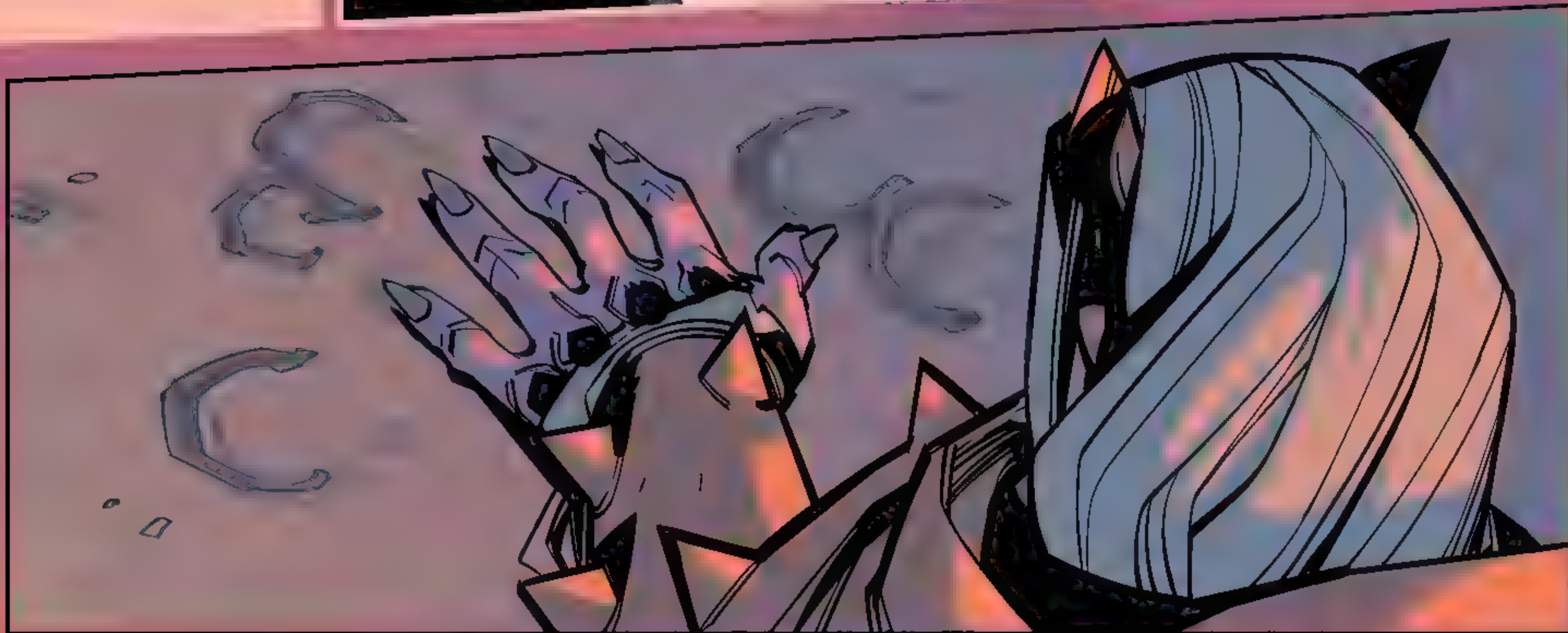
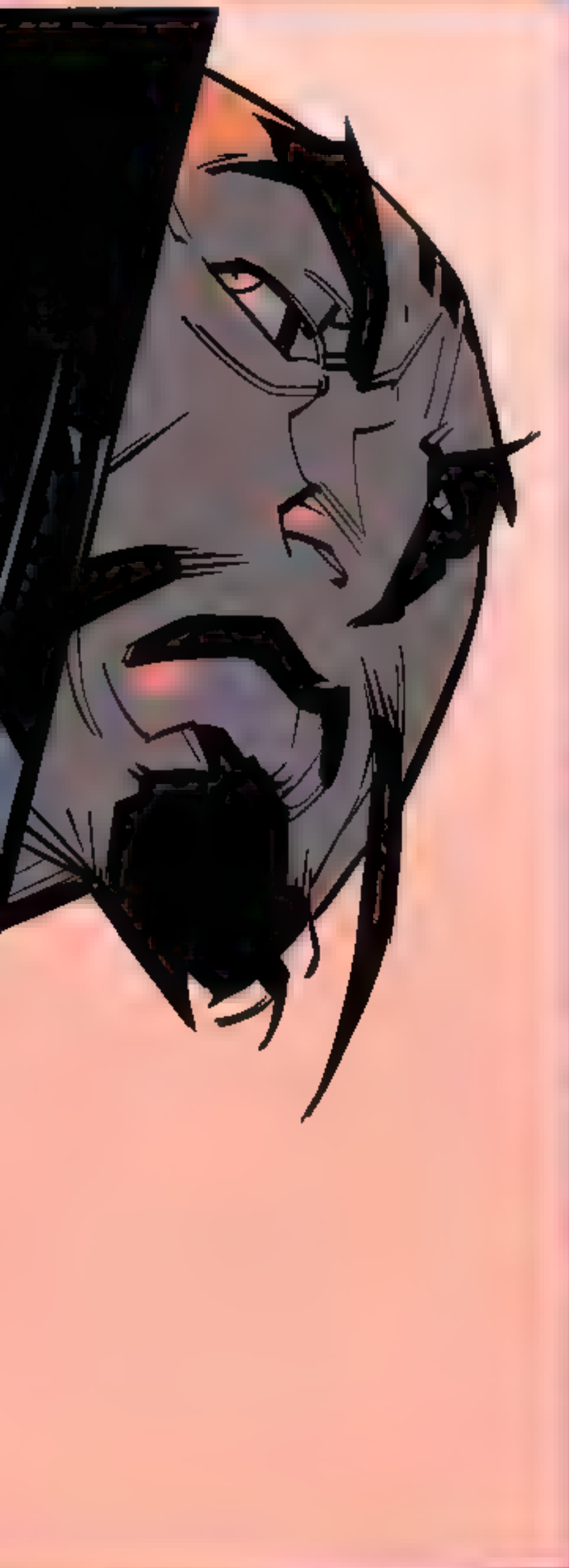
PFET

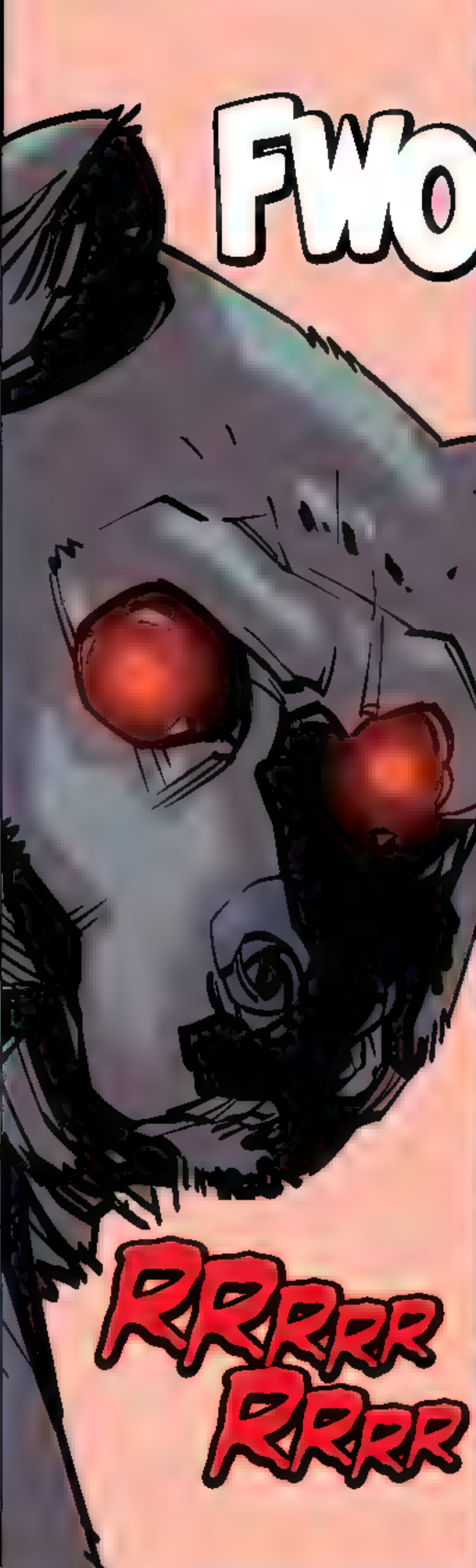
PFET

HUH?

**K
CHOO**

YARGHHH!





FWOON

**RRRRR
RRRR**



FWOON



FWOON

CAW

CAW



CAW



FWOOM

QUITE
A HEAD START.
SIX MILES,
GIVE OR
TAKE.

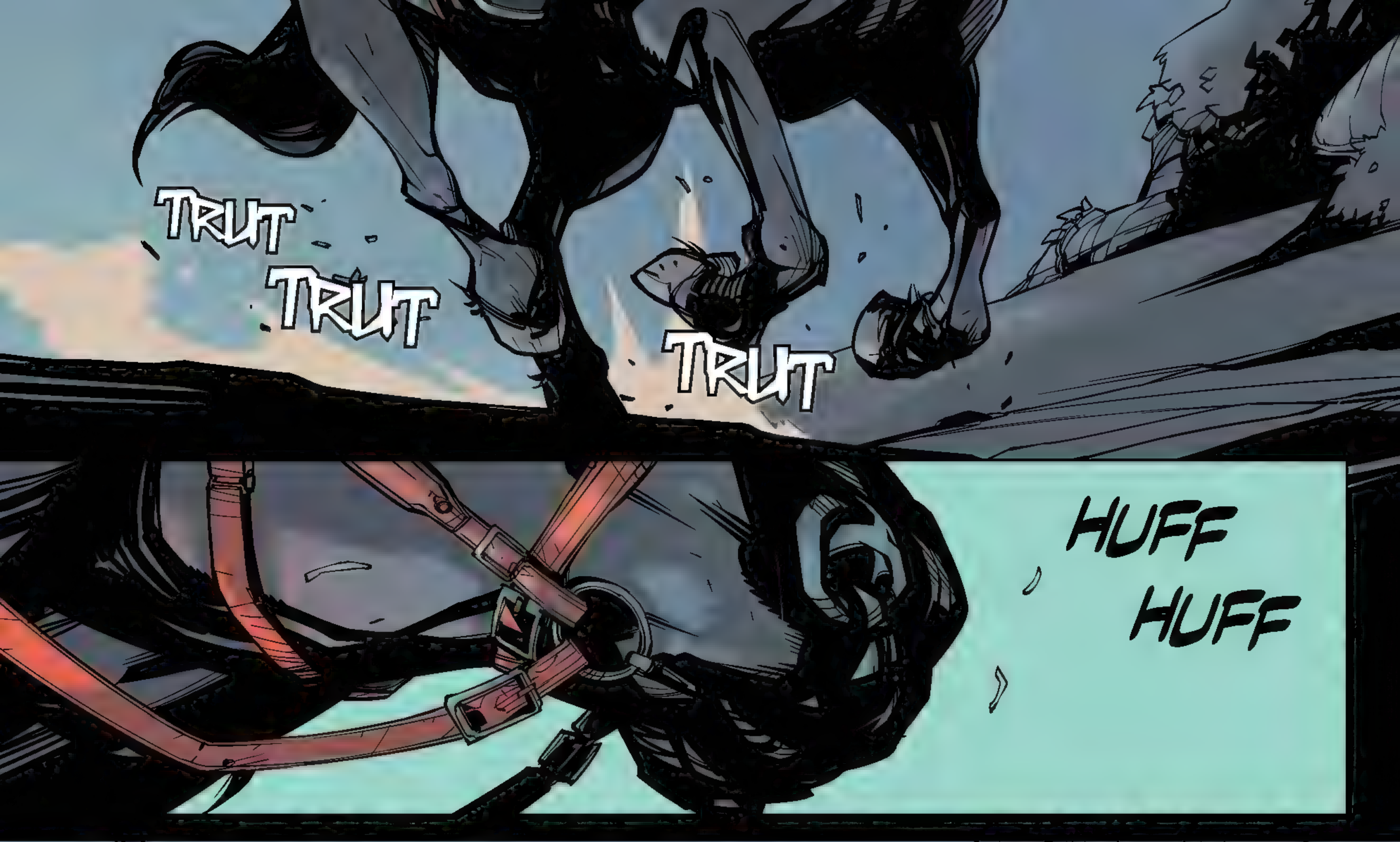
I SEE
'EM.

WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
GIRL?

LET'S MAKE
INTRODUCTIONS.

Y'ALL MIGHT
WANT TO STEP
BACK.

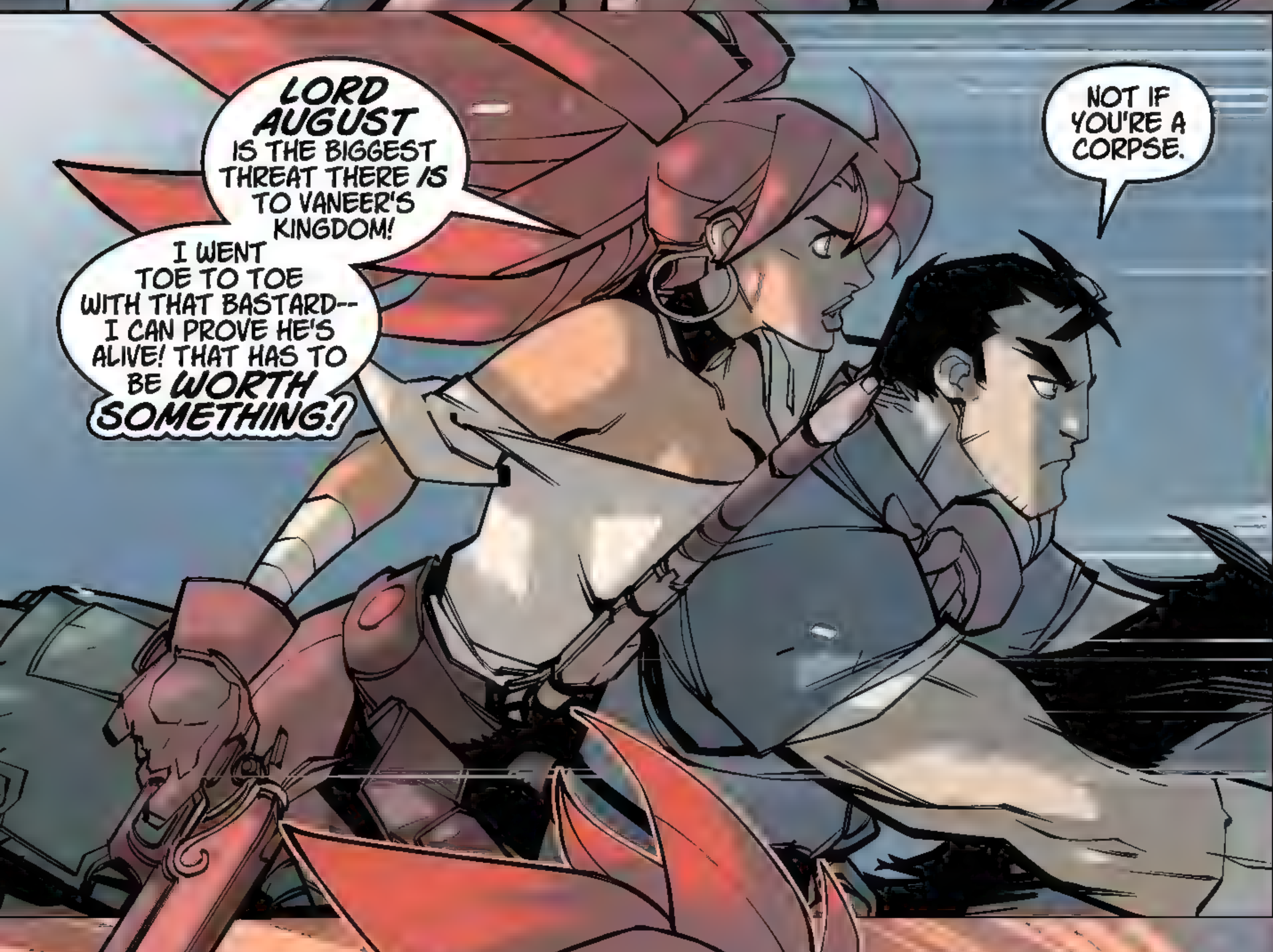
KACHWOOOM





VANEER
IS USING YOU TO
GET TO ME.

THESE
GUYS ARE KILLERS.
THEY'LL TAKE YOUR
HEAD EITHER
WAY.



LORD
AUGUST
IS THE BIGGEST
THREAT THERE IS
TO VANEER'S
KINGDOM!

I WENT
TOE TO TOE
WITH THAT BASTARD--
I CAN PROVE HE'S
ALIVE! THAT HAS TO
BE **WORTH
SOMETHING!**

NOT IF
YOU'RE A
CORPSE.



WE'RE
ALMOST TO THE
RIVER. IT'S YOUR
BEST CHANCE TO
LOSE THEM.

THEN,
YOU'RE ON
YOUR OWN.

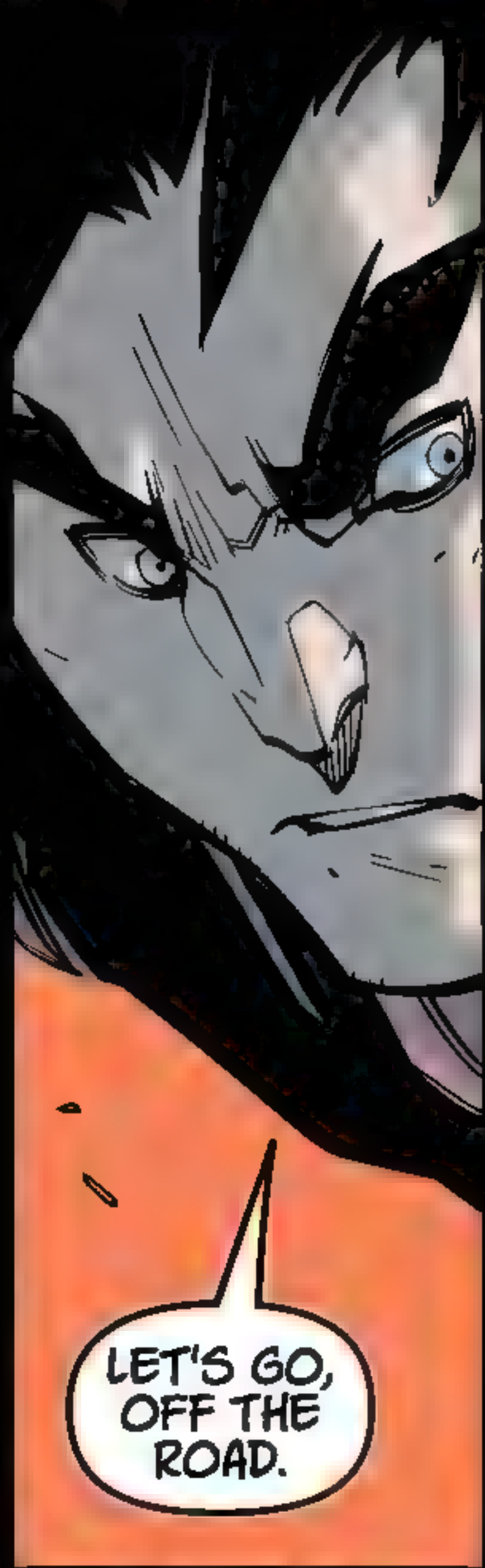
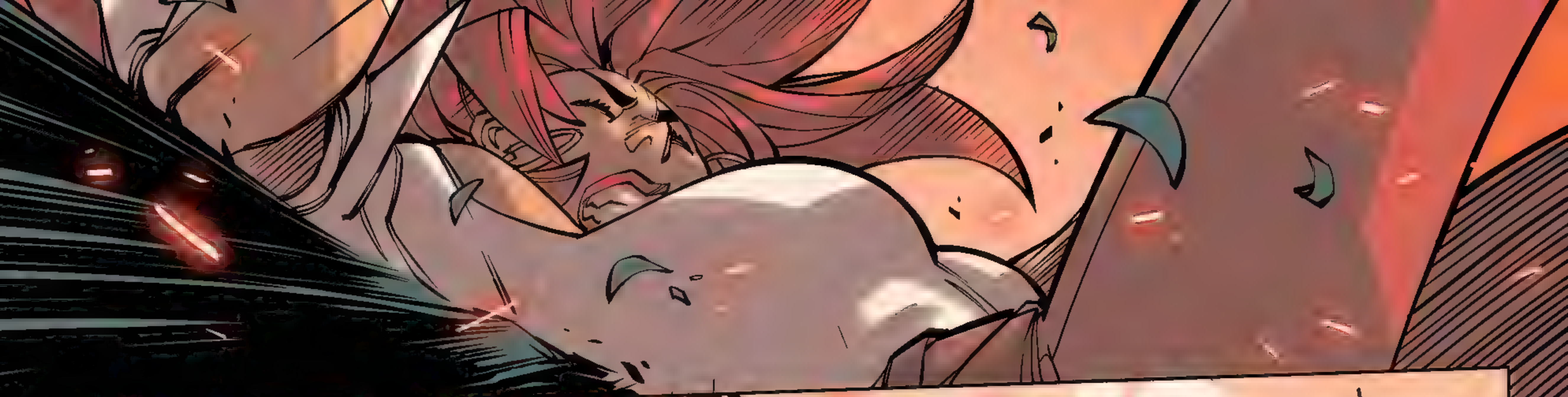


YOU
COULD
COME WITH
ME?



IT WOULD
BE JUST LIKE
OLD TIMES...







WHAT
A MESS.

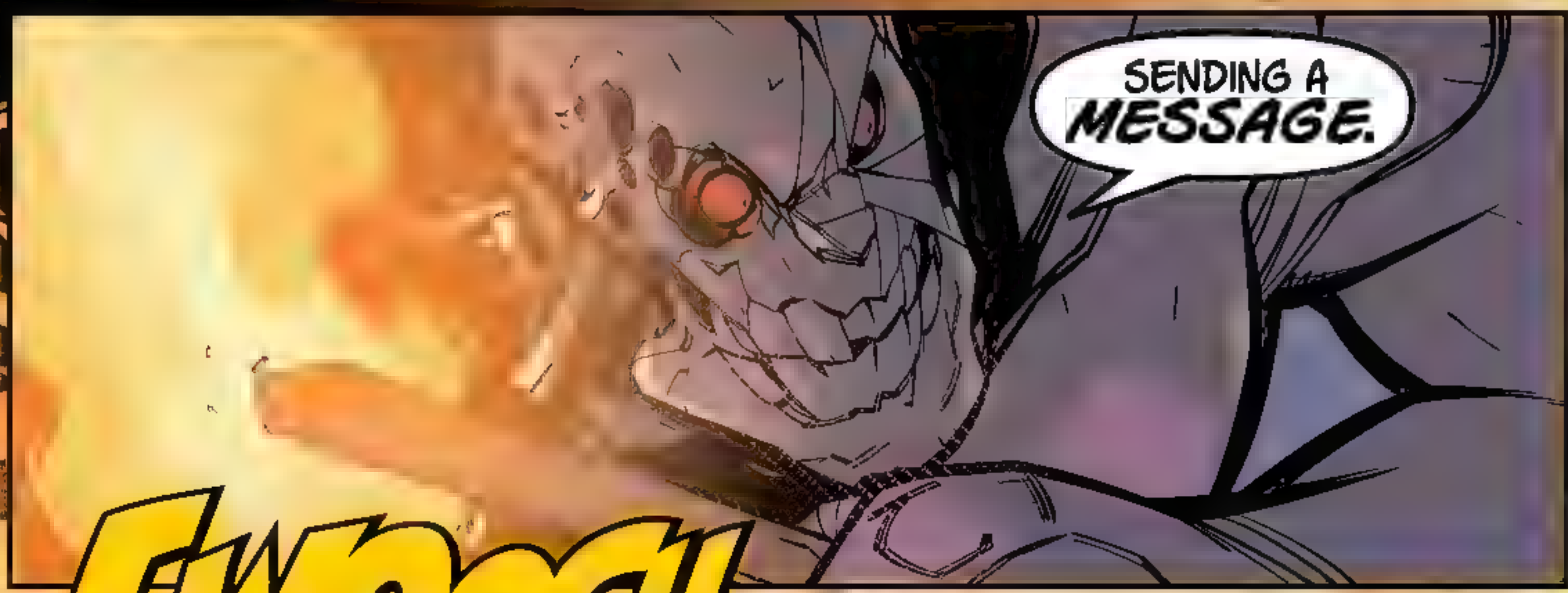
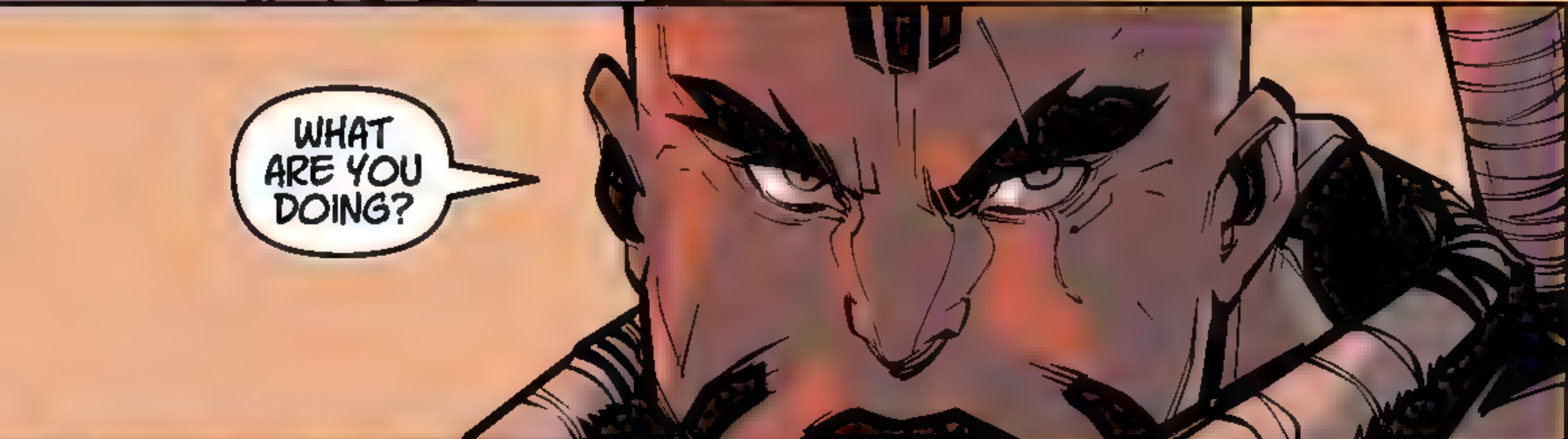
THEY'RE ON
FOOT, MOVING
SLOW.

SO, YOU
MISSED?

FUNNY,
COMING FROM
SOMEONE WHO
JUST LOST HALF
THEIR FACE.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



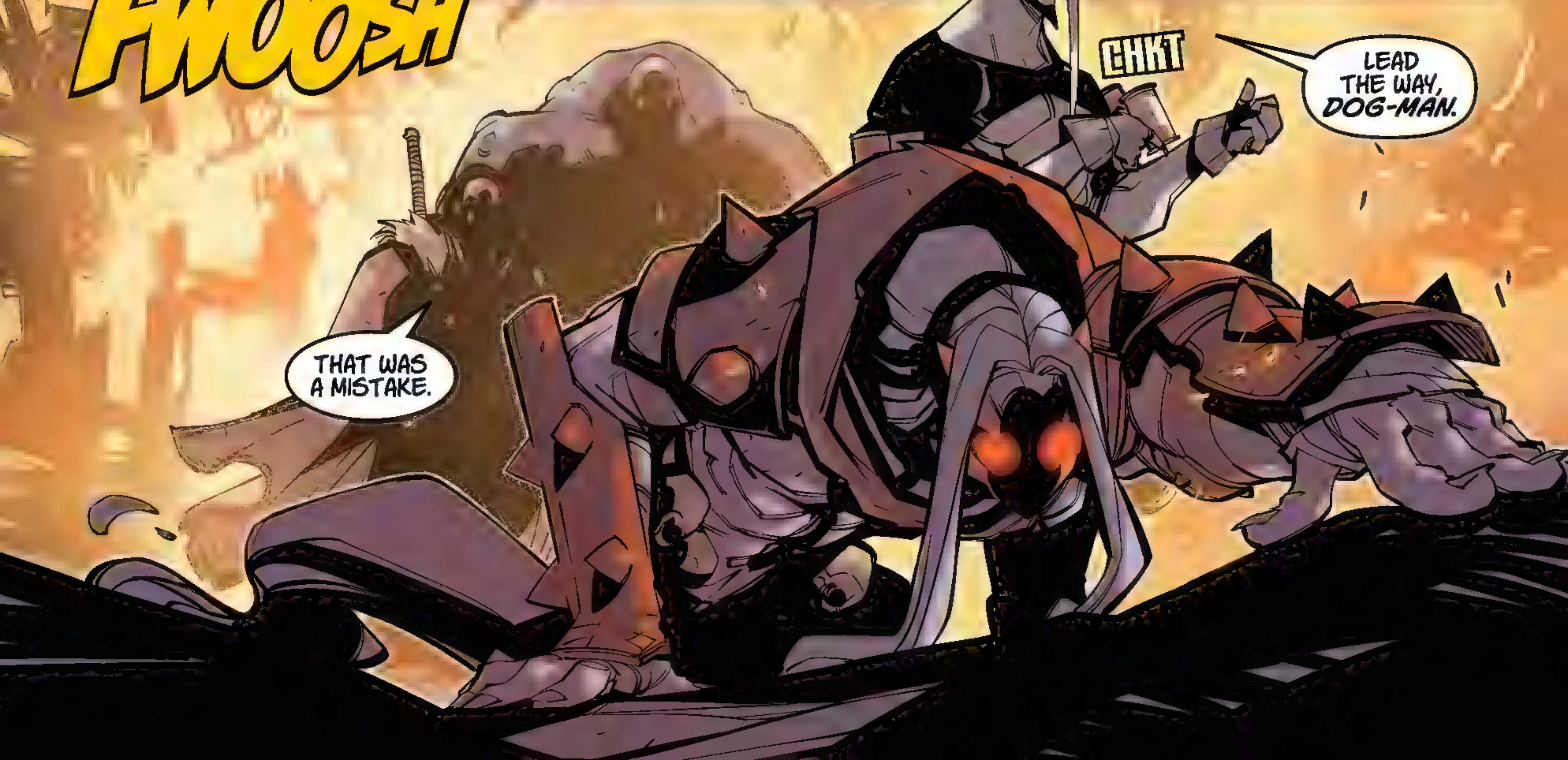
SENDING A
MESSAGE.

FWOOSH

EHKT

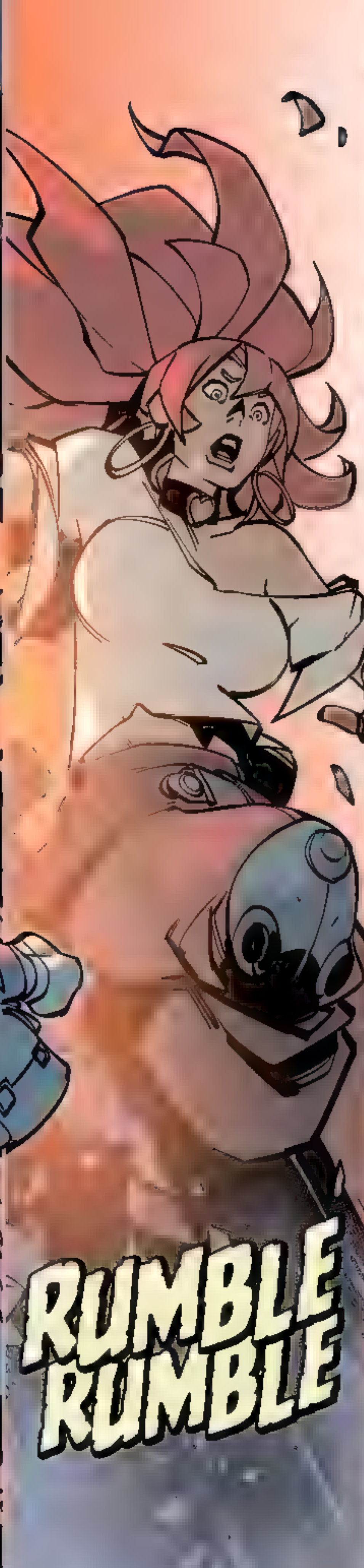
LEAD
THE WAY,
DOG-MAN.

THAT WAS
A MISTAKE.

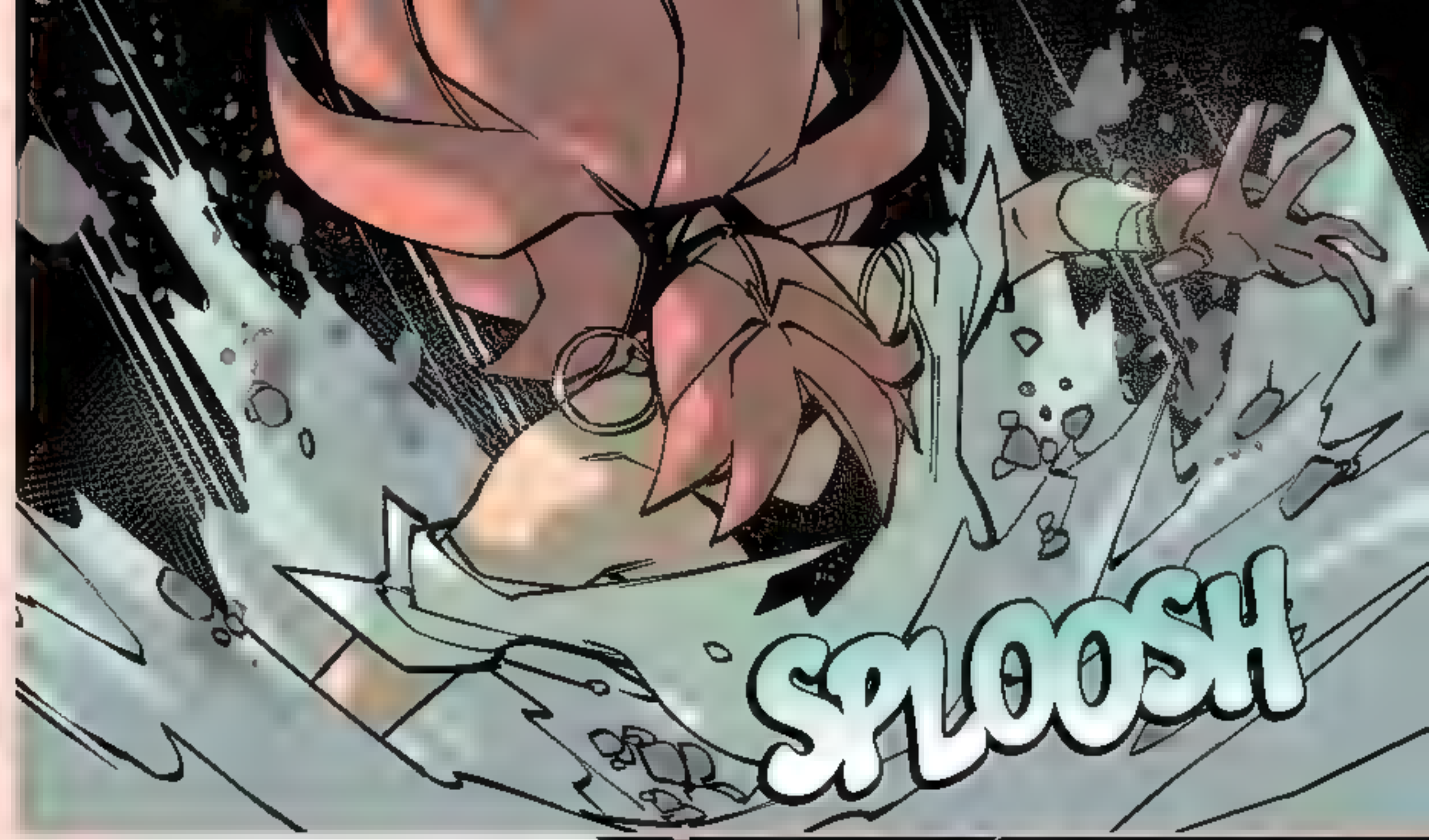




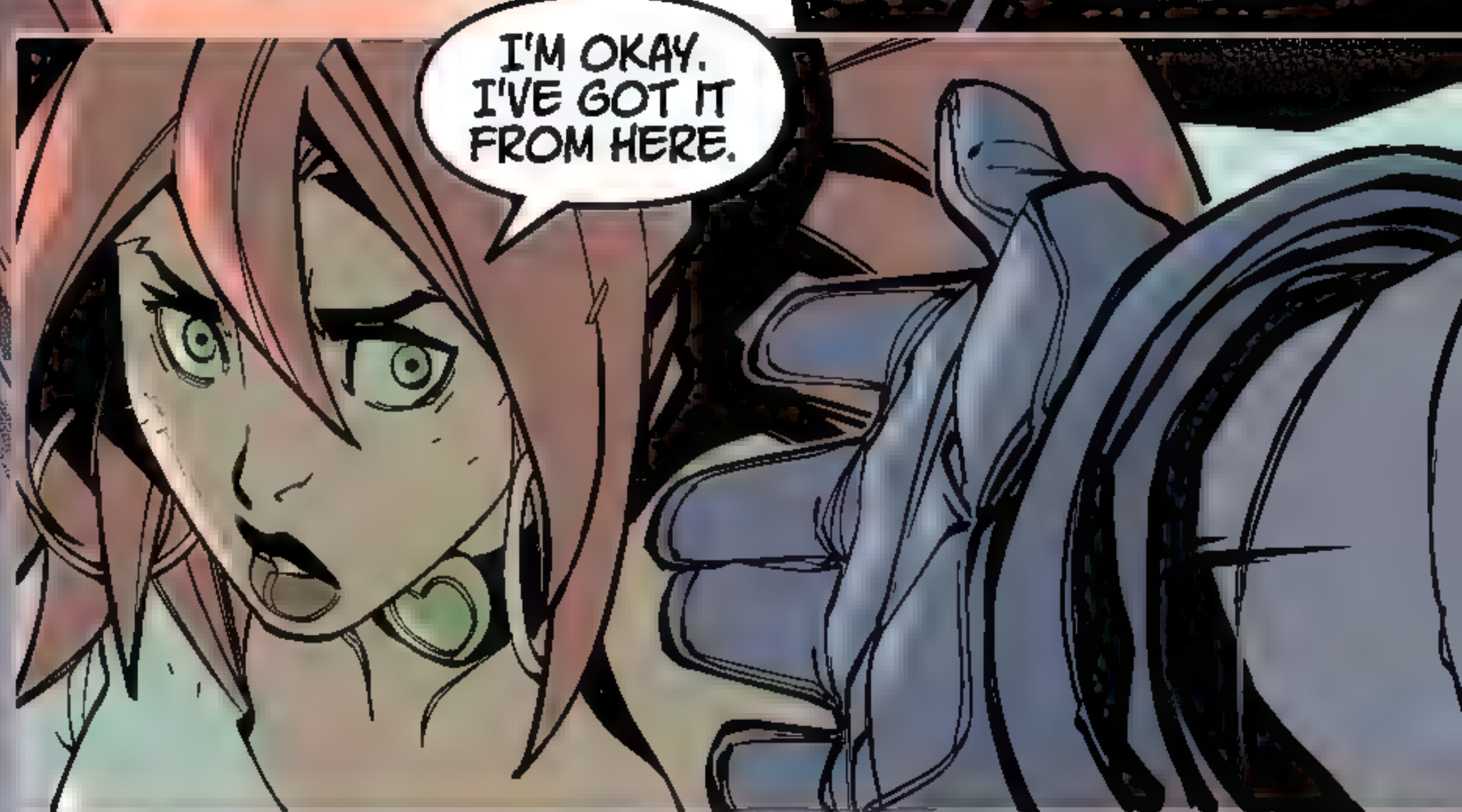
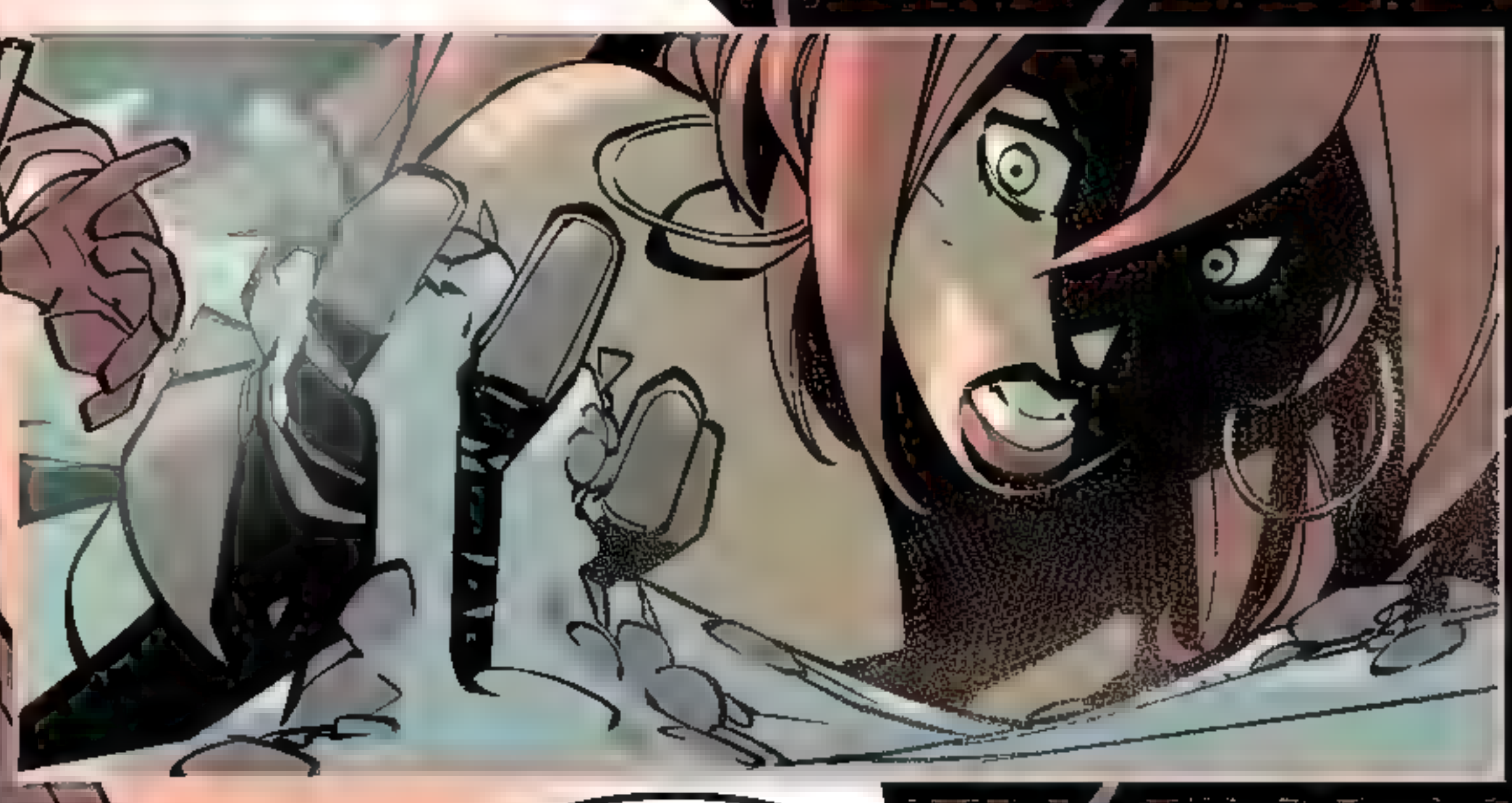
KEEP UP.
THE RIVER'S
JUST BELOW.



RUMBLE
RUMBLE



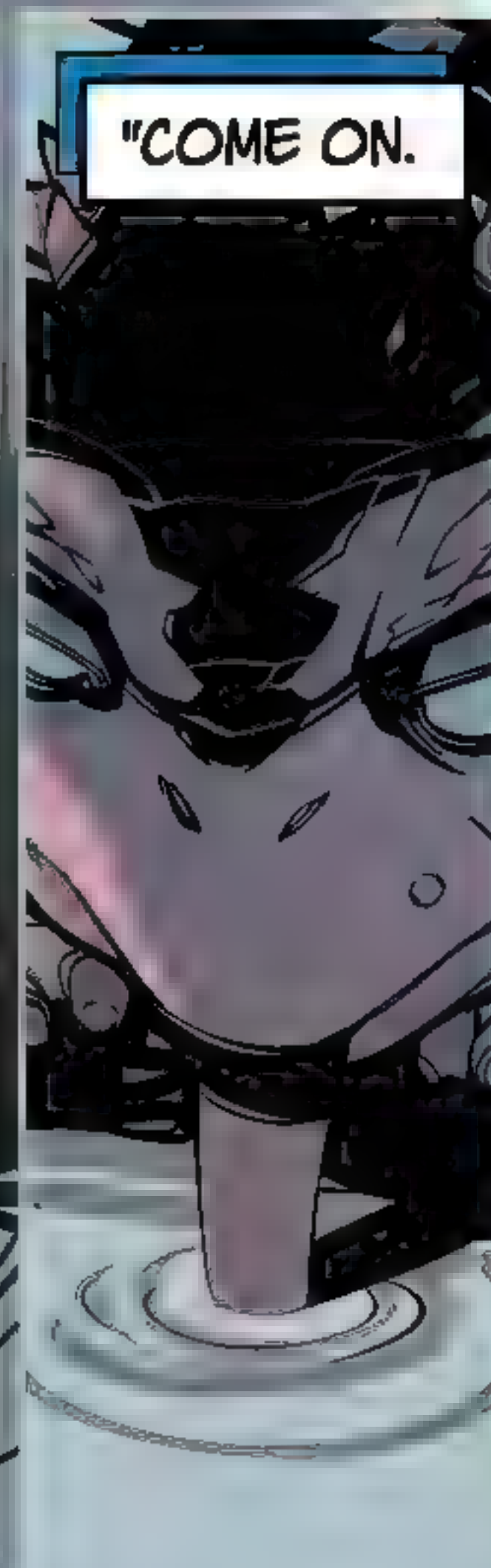
SPLOOSH



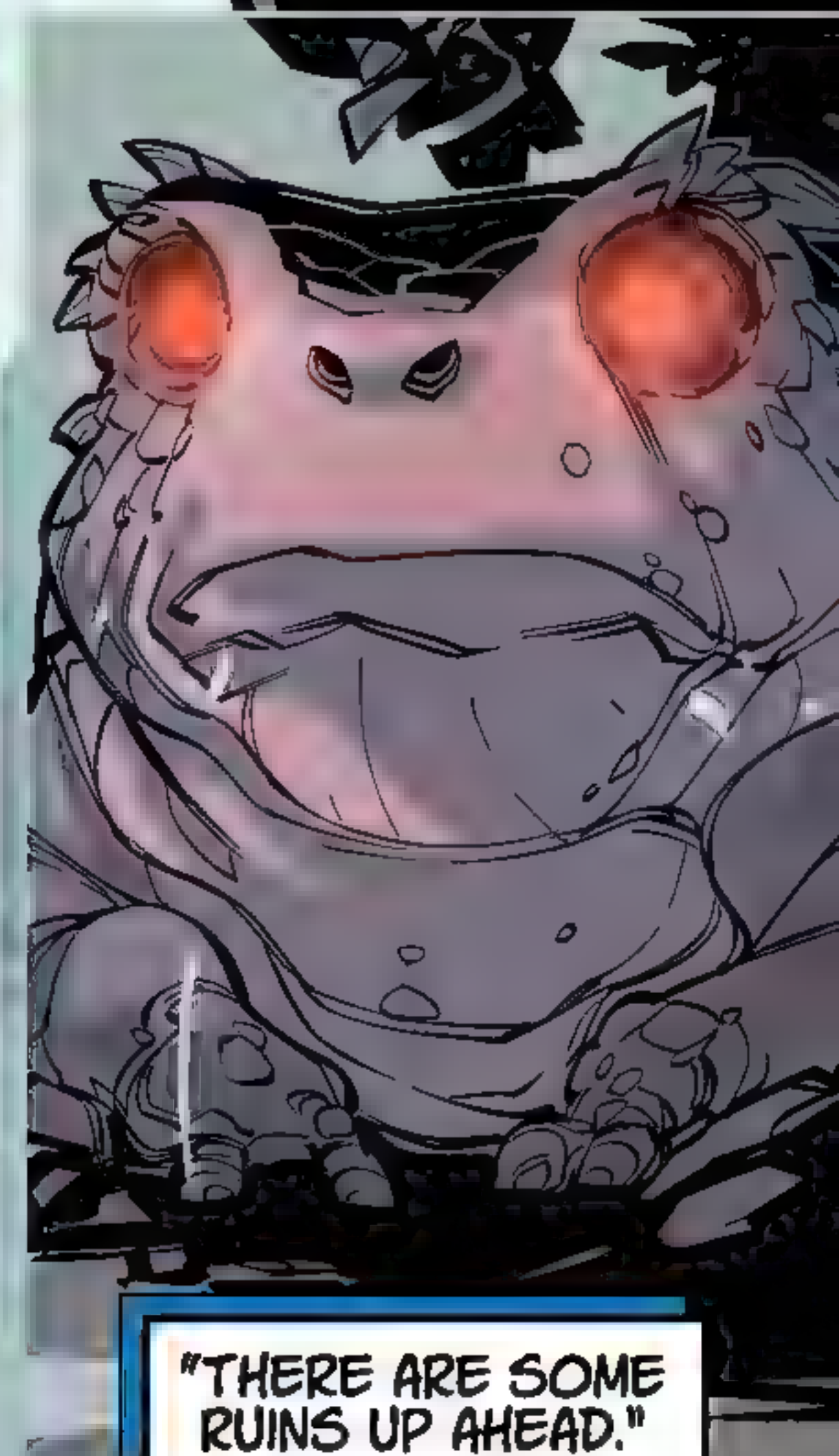
I'M OKAY.
I'VE GOT IT
FROM HERE.



THE WATER'S
TOO LOW, YOU
WON'T BE ABLE TO
LOSE THEM. AND
YOU'RE IN ROUGH
SHAPE.



"COME ON.

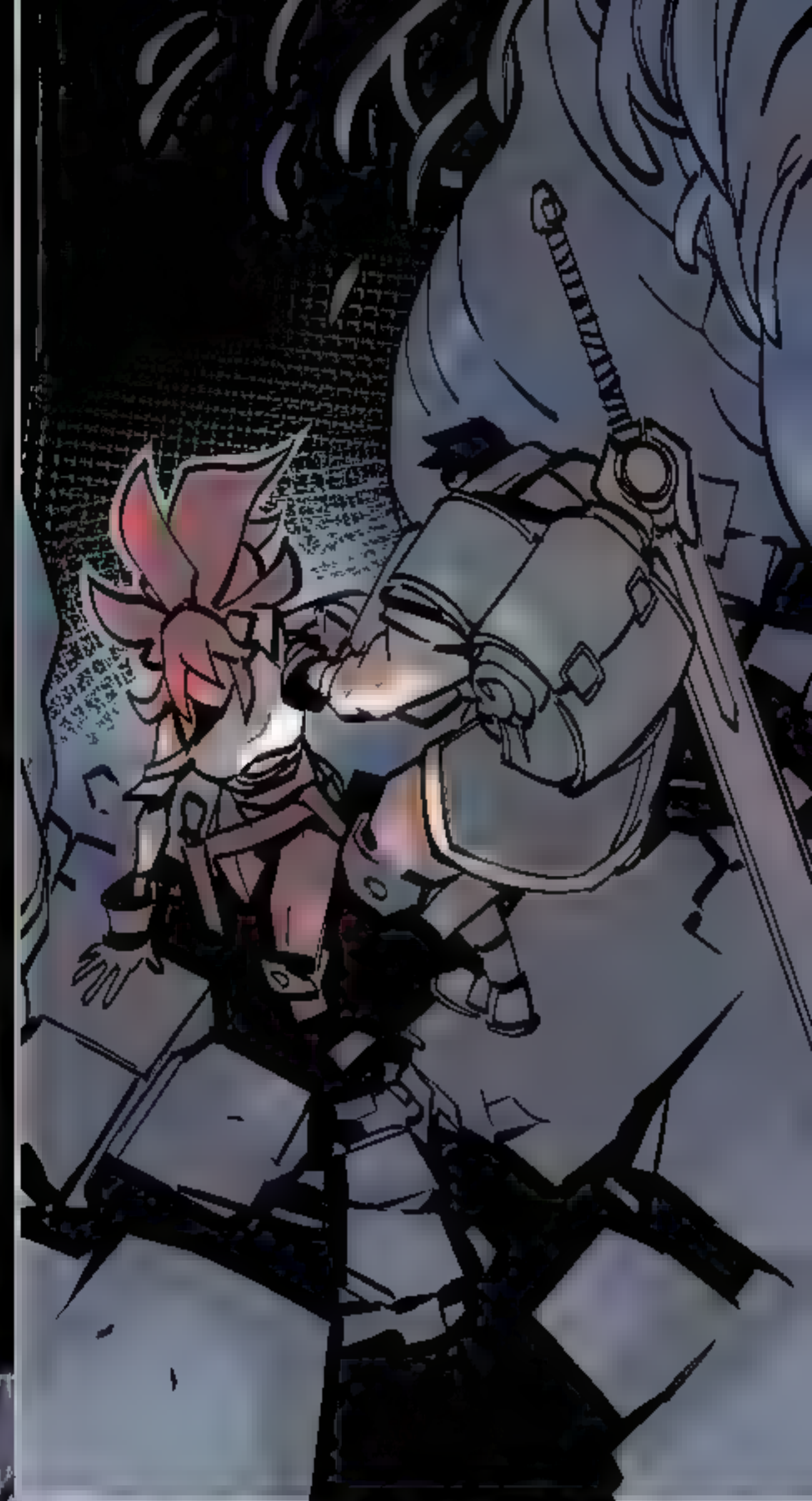


"THERE ARE SOME
RUINS UP AHEAD."





YOU CAN
HIDE OUT HERE
FOR A BIT.

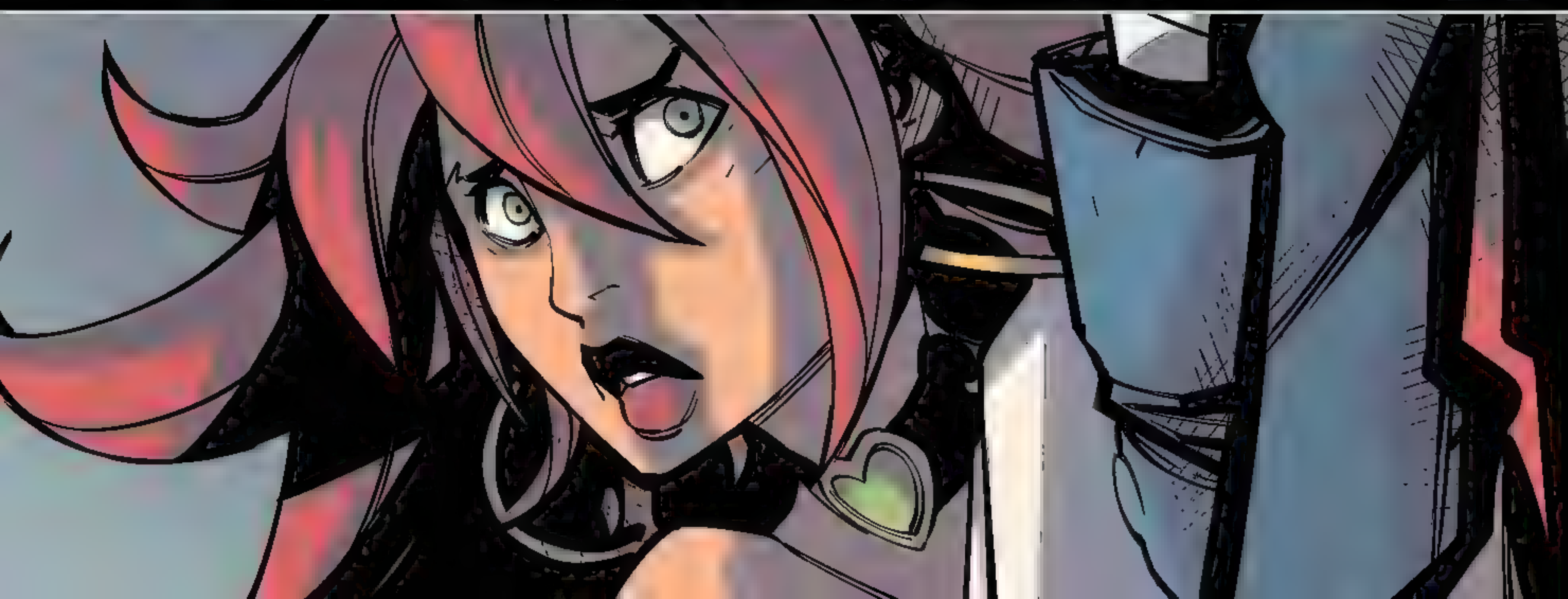
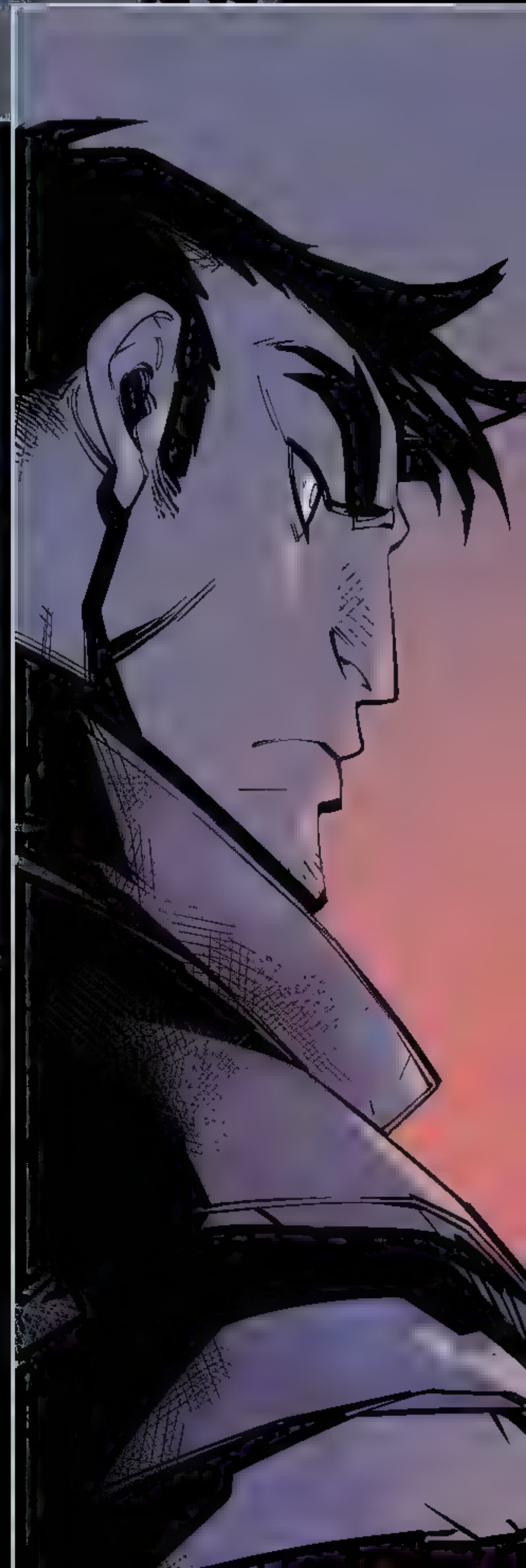


GOOD
VISIBILITY FOR
MILES...

YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO SEE
THEM COMING
FROM FAR
OFF...



WAIT.
IS THAT...?





WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



LIKE **HELL** YOU ARE! I'M COMING WITH 4--**NGHHH!**



I'M GOING TO BUY YOU SOME TIME.

GET MOVING AS SOON AS YOU CAN.



AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS-- NO MATTER WHAT YOU **SEE** OR WHAT YOU **HEAR**...



...DON'T STOP.



Capital City.
Military prison
Ward 13.



RIGHT UP
HERE, LOVE.
DON'T BE
FRIGHTENED.

TH-THEY SAY
HE'S A *DEMON*.
A *SKIN-WALKER*.
THAT AT NIGHT, HE
LAY WITH WOLVES,
AND OTHER
BEASTS.



MAYBE
SO. BUT YOU
NEEDN'T WORRY,
SEE? HE'S BEEN
DECLAWED.

GO ON,
SET IT
DOWN.

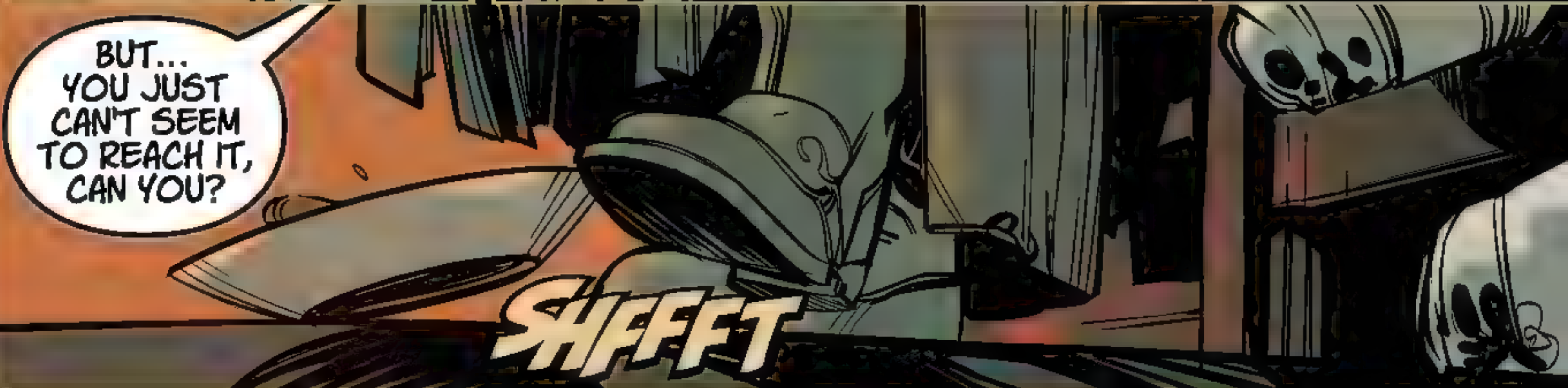


BUT...
YOU JUST
CAN'T SEEM
TO REACH IT,
CAN YOU?

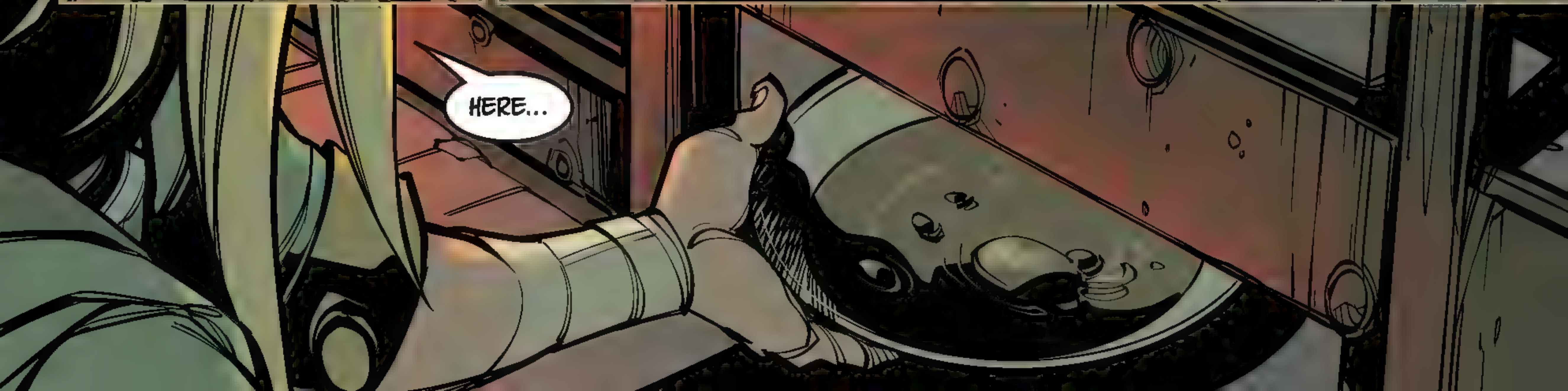


POOR
THING MUST
BE HUNGRY,
LOOK AT
HIM PAWING
DESPERATELY
AT HIS
SLOP.

CLAKT
CLAKT



SHFFT

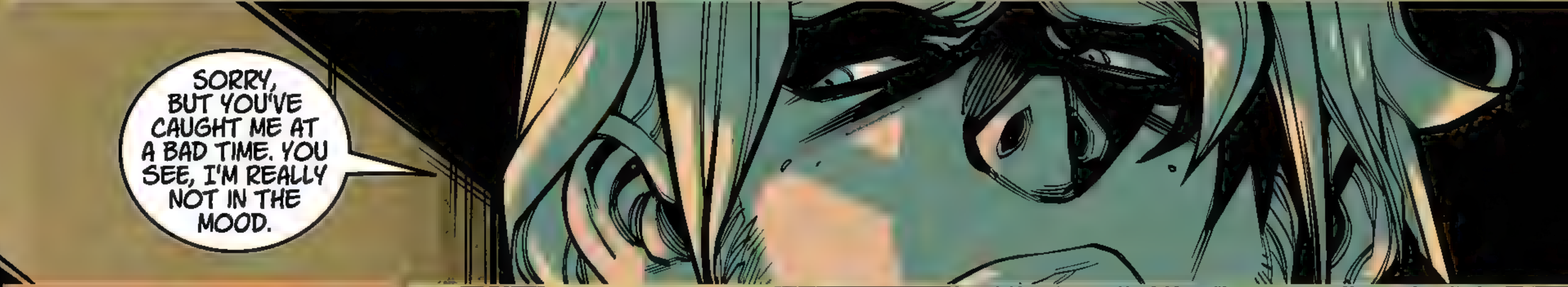


HERE...



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WAS HOPING WE COULD... TALK.



SORRY, BUT YOU'VE CAUGHT ME AT A BAD TIME. YOU SEE, I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD.



YOU LIED ABOUT MY FATHER, DIDN'T YOU?! THOSE THINGS YOU SAID. I JUST NEED TO KNOW THE **TRUTH!**



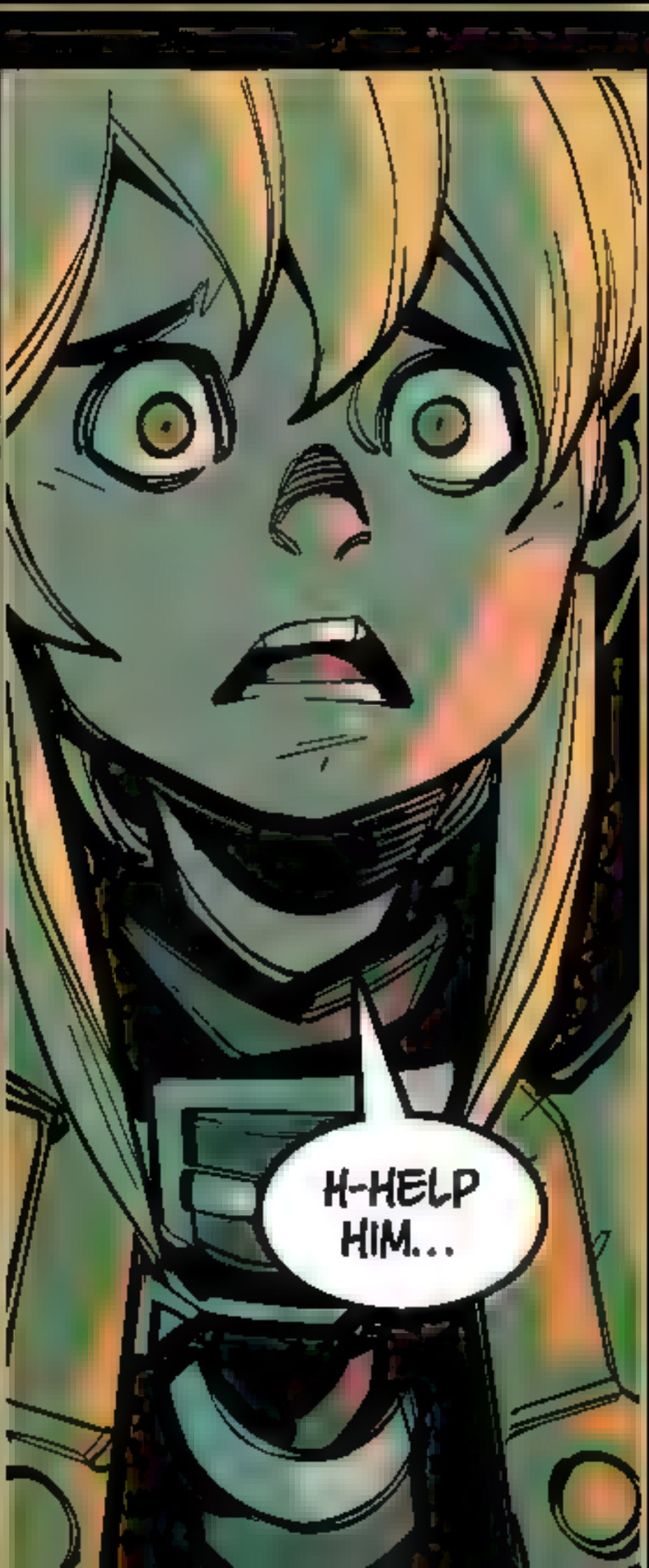
**SLURP
SLURP
SLURP**

**CLATTER
CLATTER**



WHAT ARE YOU--?! STOP.

**GULP
GULP
SLURP**



H-HELP HIM...



WHY ARE YOU TREATING HIM LIKE THIS?!

**SLURP
SLURP
SLURP**



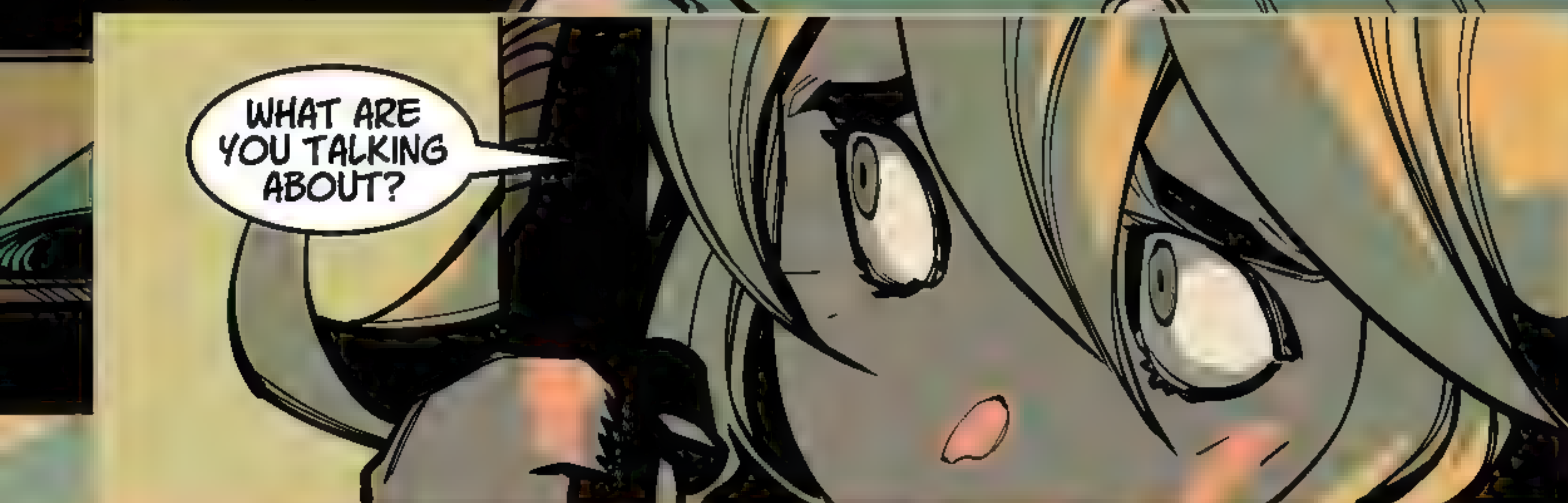
DON'T
PITY ME.

YOU
THINK YOU'RE
FREE? YOU
MAY BE OUT
THERE...

...BUT
YOU'RE STILL...
A **PRISONER.**

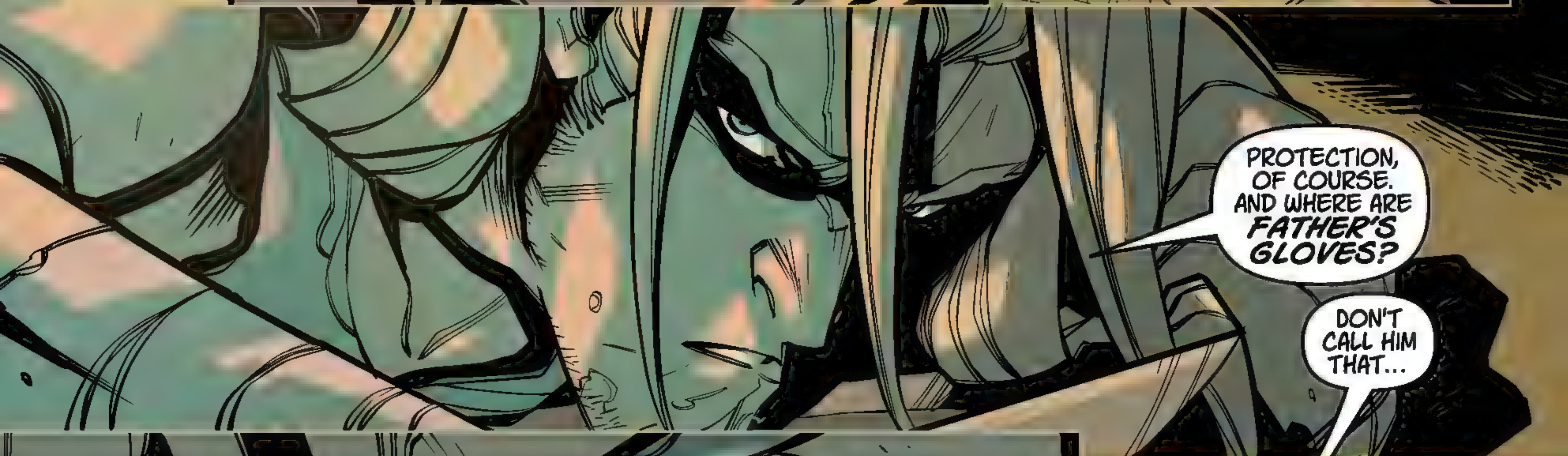


THOSE GUARDS.
THEY FOLLOW YOU
EVERYWHERE, DON'T
THEY? WATCH YOUR
EVERY MOVE...



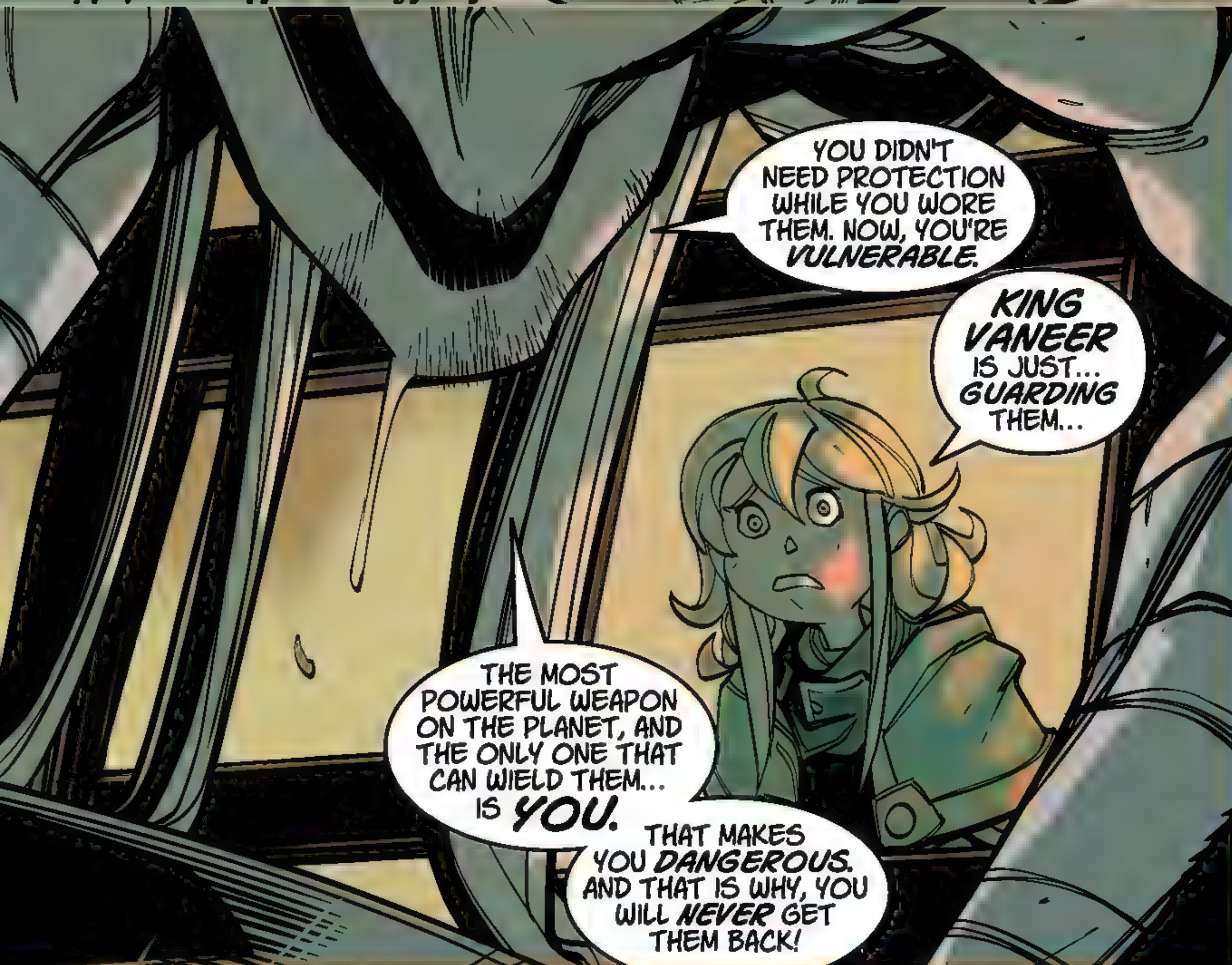
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THEY'RE... FOR MY
PROTECTION.



PROTECTION,
OF COURSE.
AND WHERE ARE
FATHER'S
GLOVES?

DON'T
CALL HIM
THAT...



YOU DIDN'T
NEED PROTECTION
WHILE YOU WORE
THEM. NOW, YOU'RE
VULNERABLE.

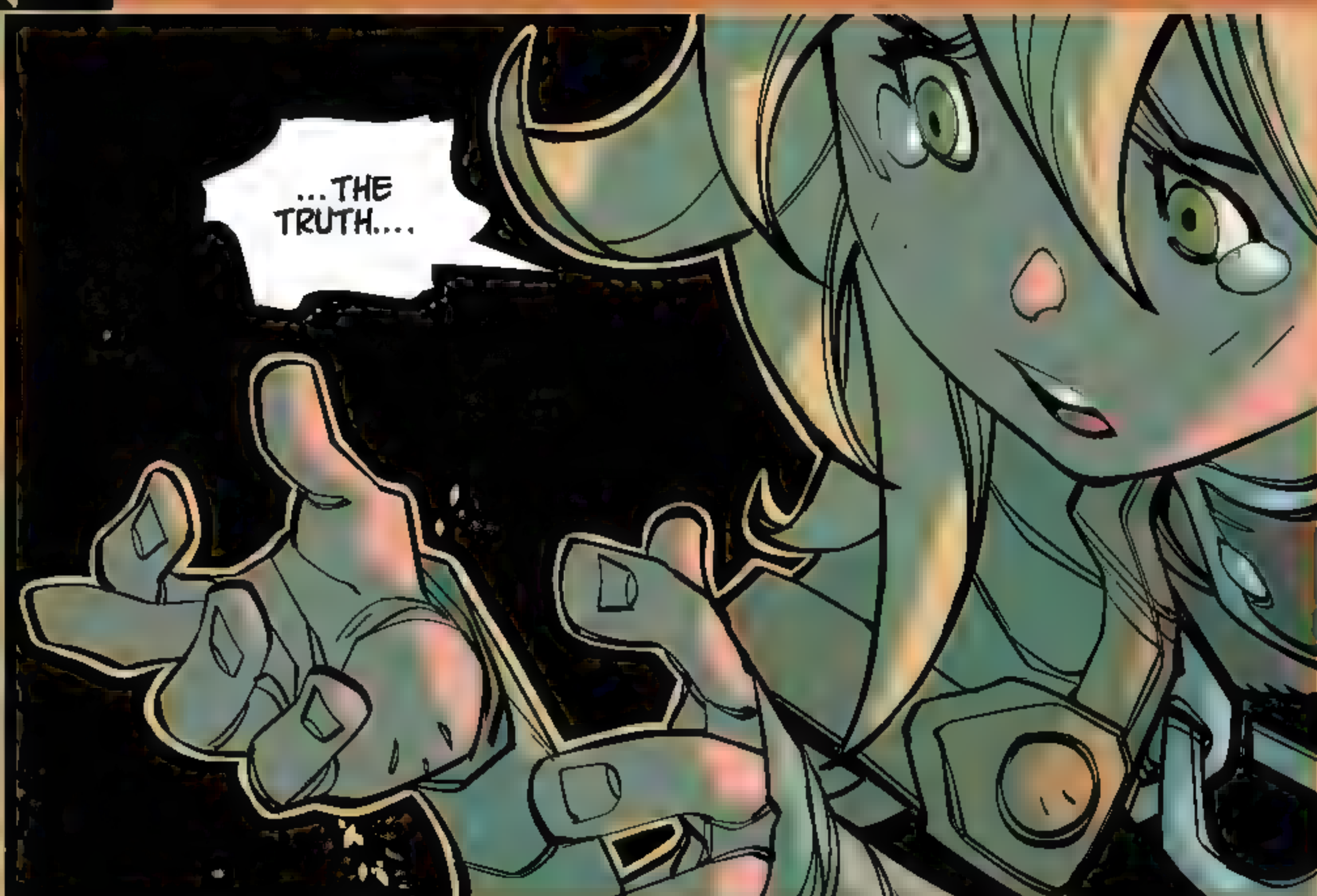
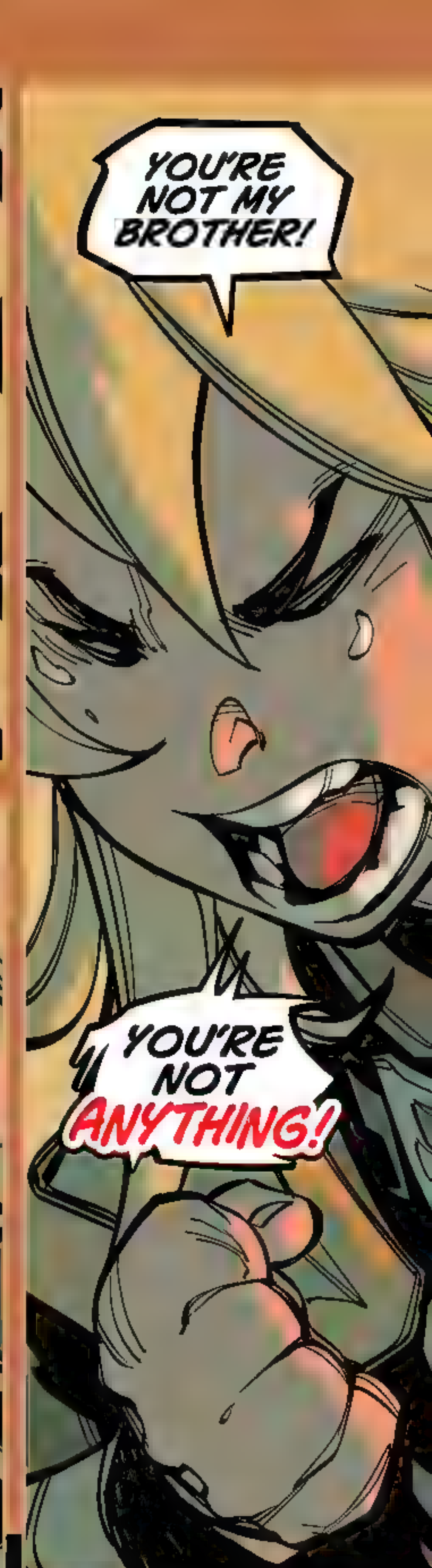
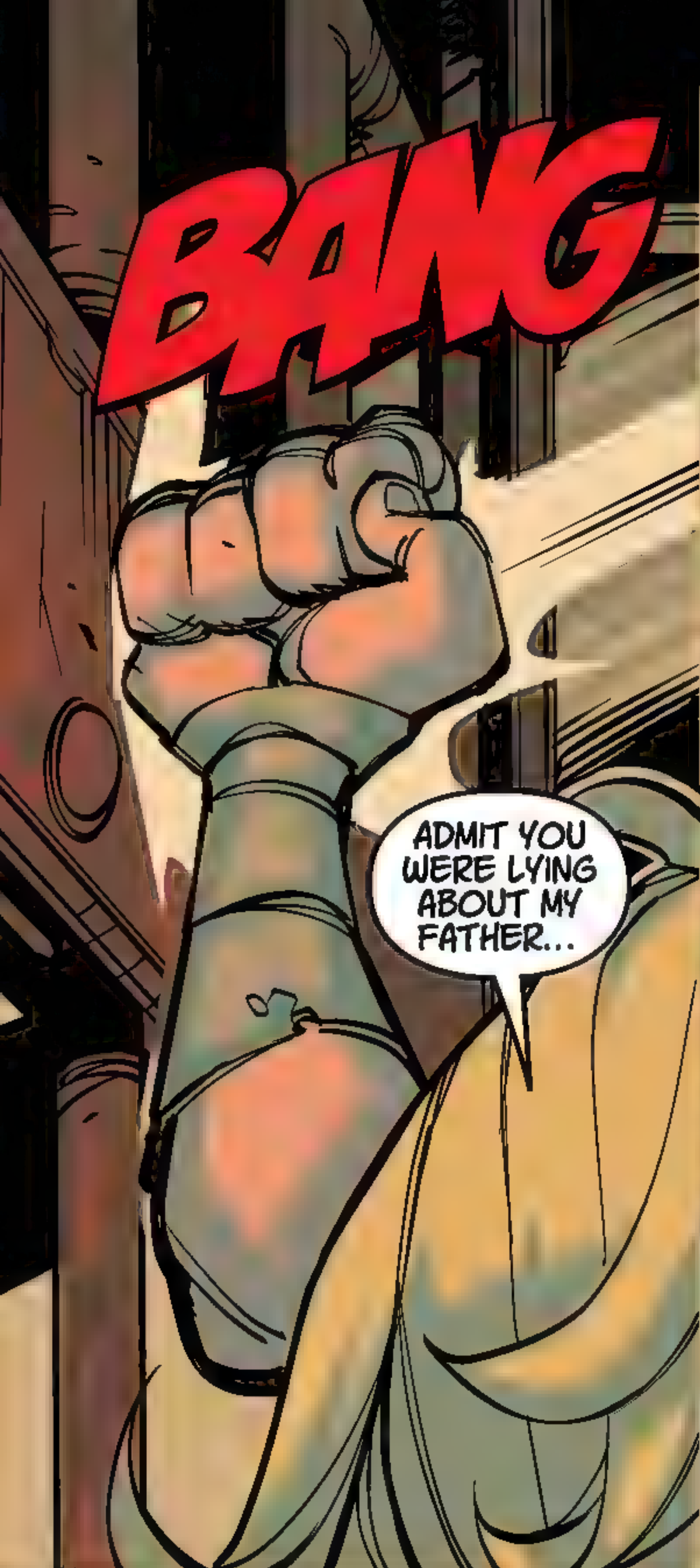
KING
VANEER
IS JUST...
GUARDING
THEM...

THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON
ON THE PLANET, AND
THE ONLY ONE THAT
CAN WIELD THEM...
IS **YOU.**

THAT MAKES
YOU **DANGEROUS.**
AND THAT IS WHY, YOU
WILL **NEVER** GET
THEM BACK!



HOW COULD
YOU LET
THIS HAPPEN?
YOU STUPID,
STUPID
LITTLE GIRL!





WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?! YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE!

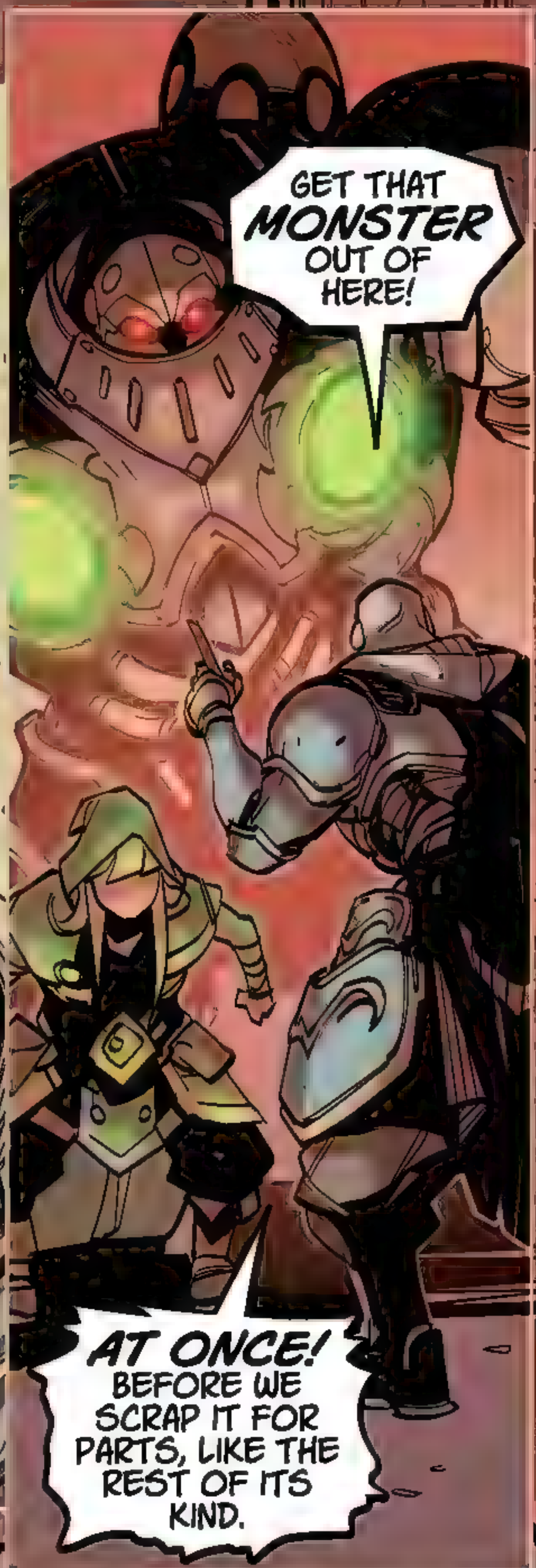


THOSE GLOVES BELONG TO ME! I WANT THEM BACK... **NOW!**

I'M SORRY, CHILD, KING VANEER HAS ORDERED...



HMMZZT...



GET THAT MONSTER OUT OF HERE!

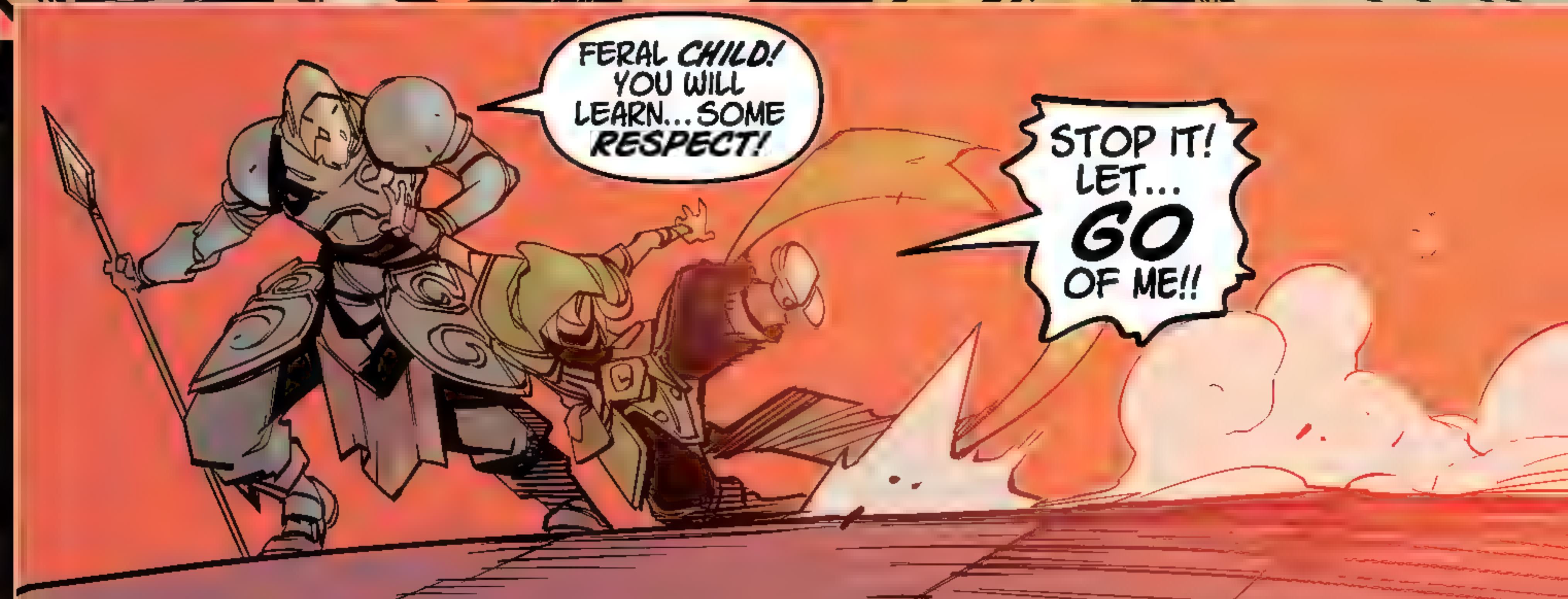
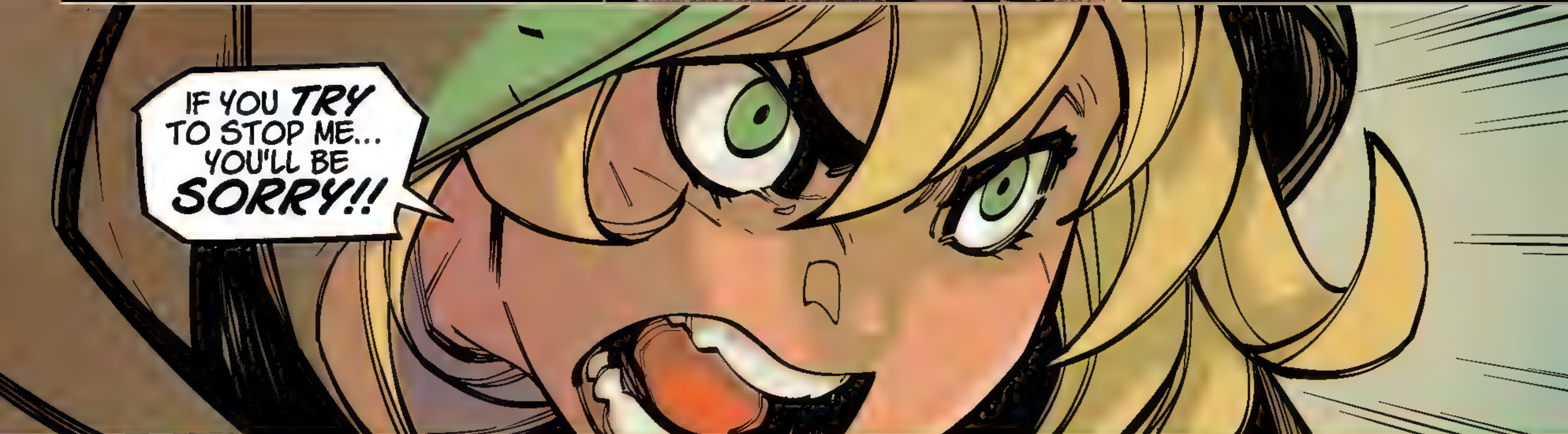
AT ONCE! BEFORE WE SCRAP IT FOR PARTS, LIKE THE REST OF ITS KIND.

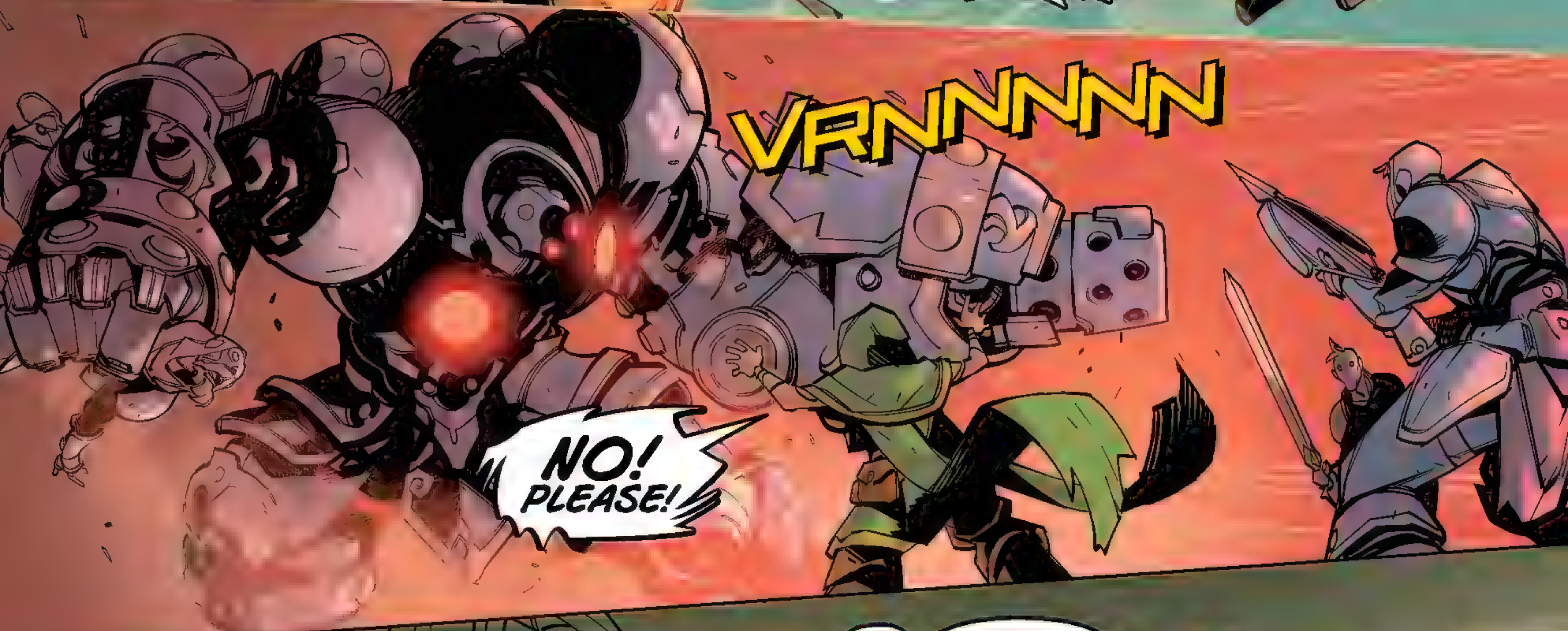
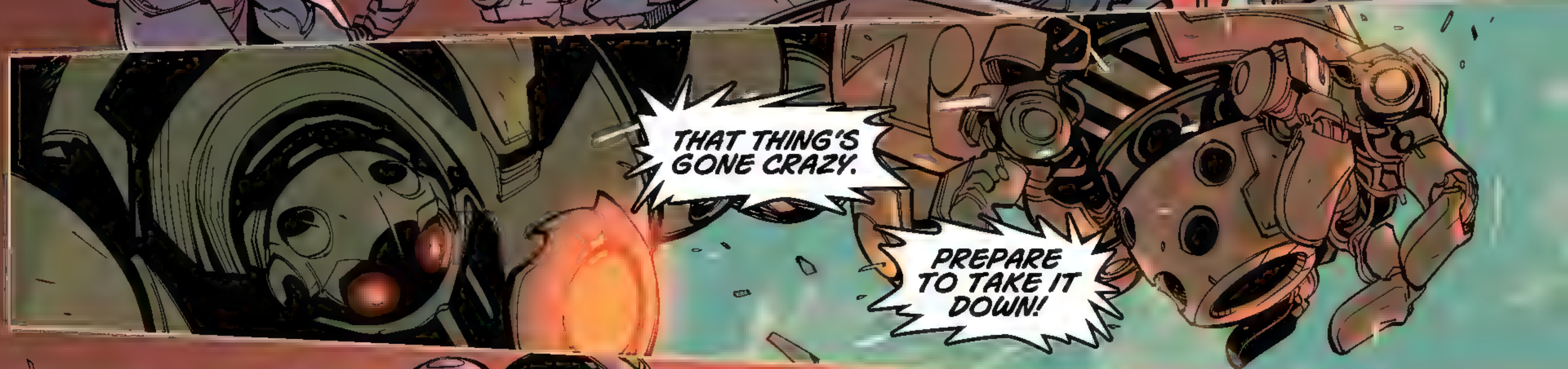
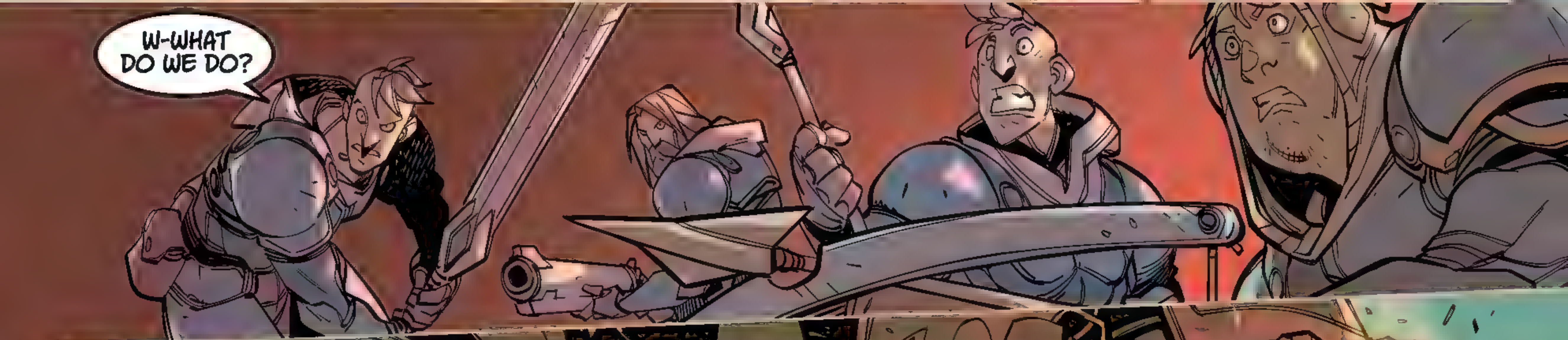


I DON'T CARE!



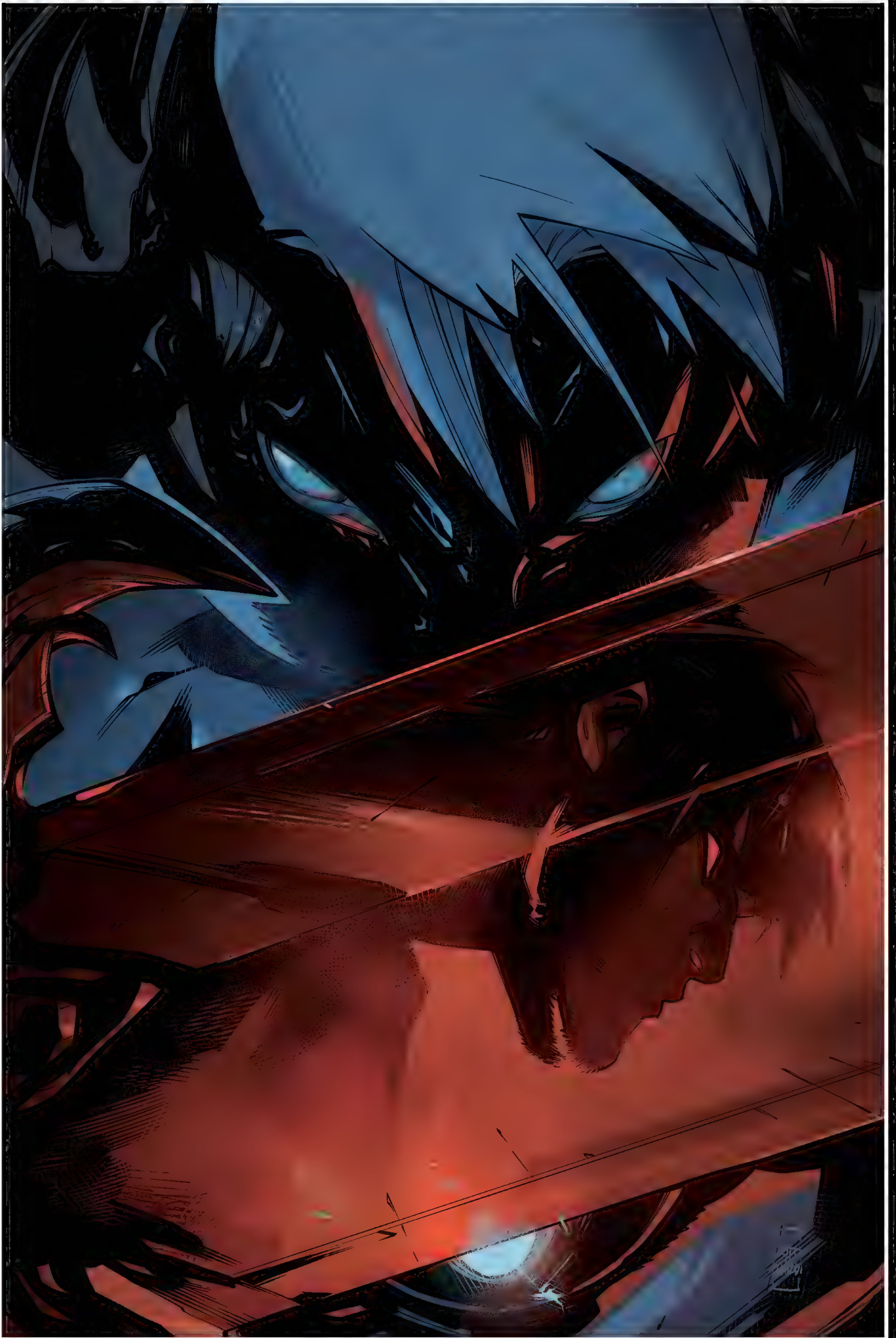
HMMZZT. GULLY, IT'S BEST WE LEAVE--- SPEAK WITH KNOLAN, AND THE KING...





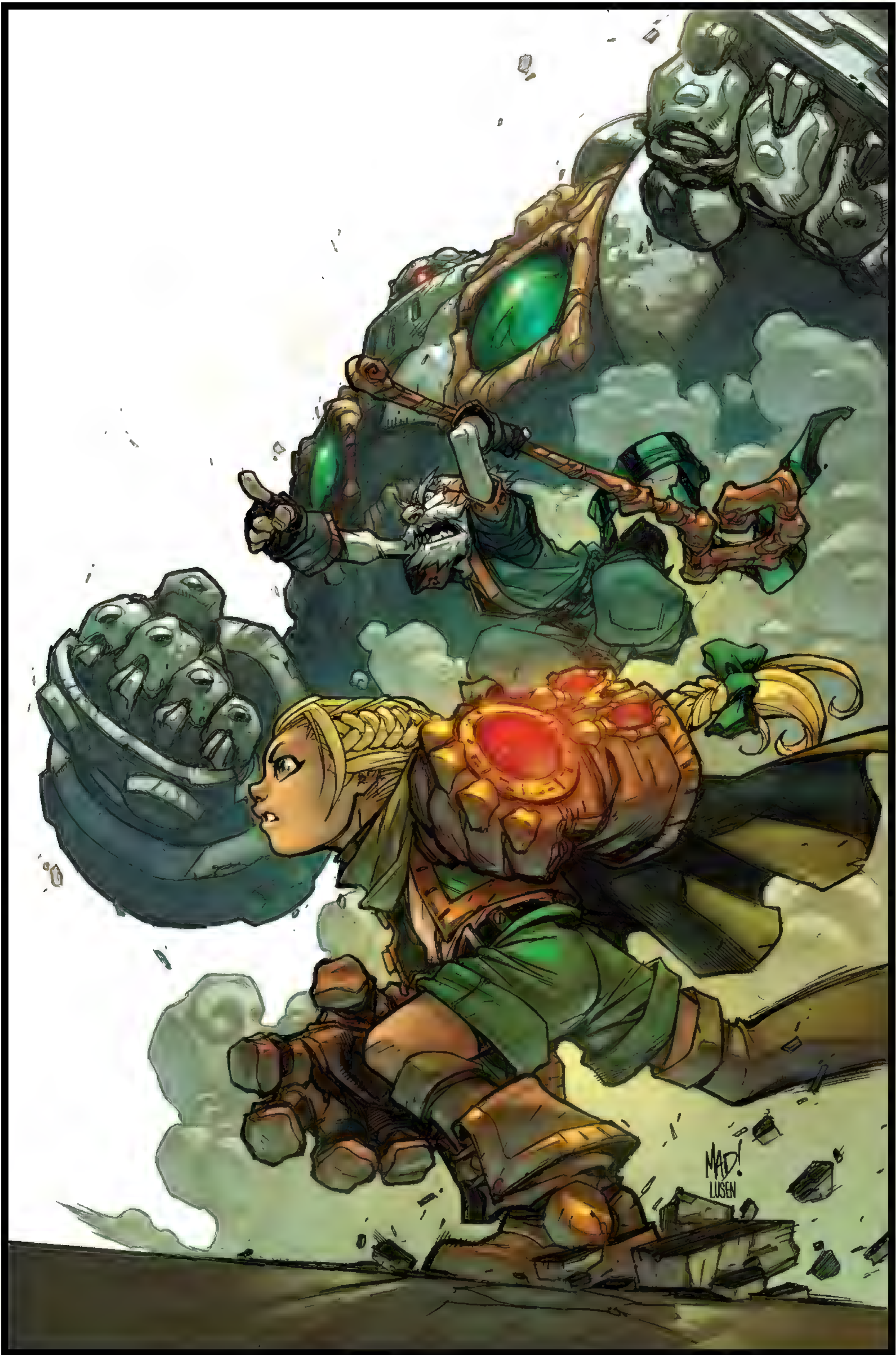
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT!









COVER A by **LUDO LULLABI**

RATED **M** / MATURE



JOE MADUREIRA

LUDO LULLABI

11

BATTLE HUSERS



SKITTER

SKITTER

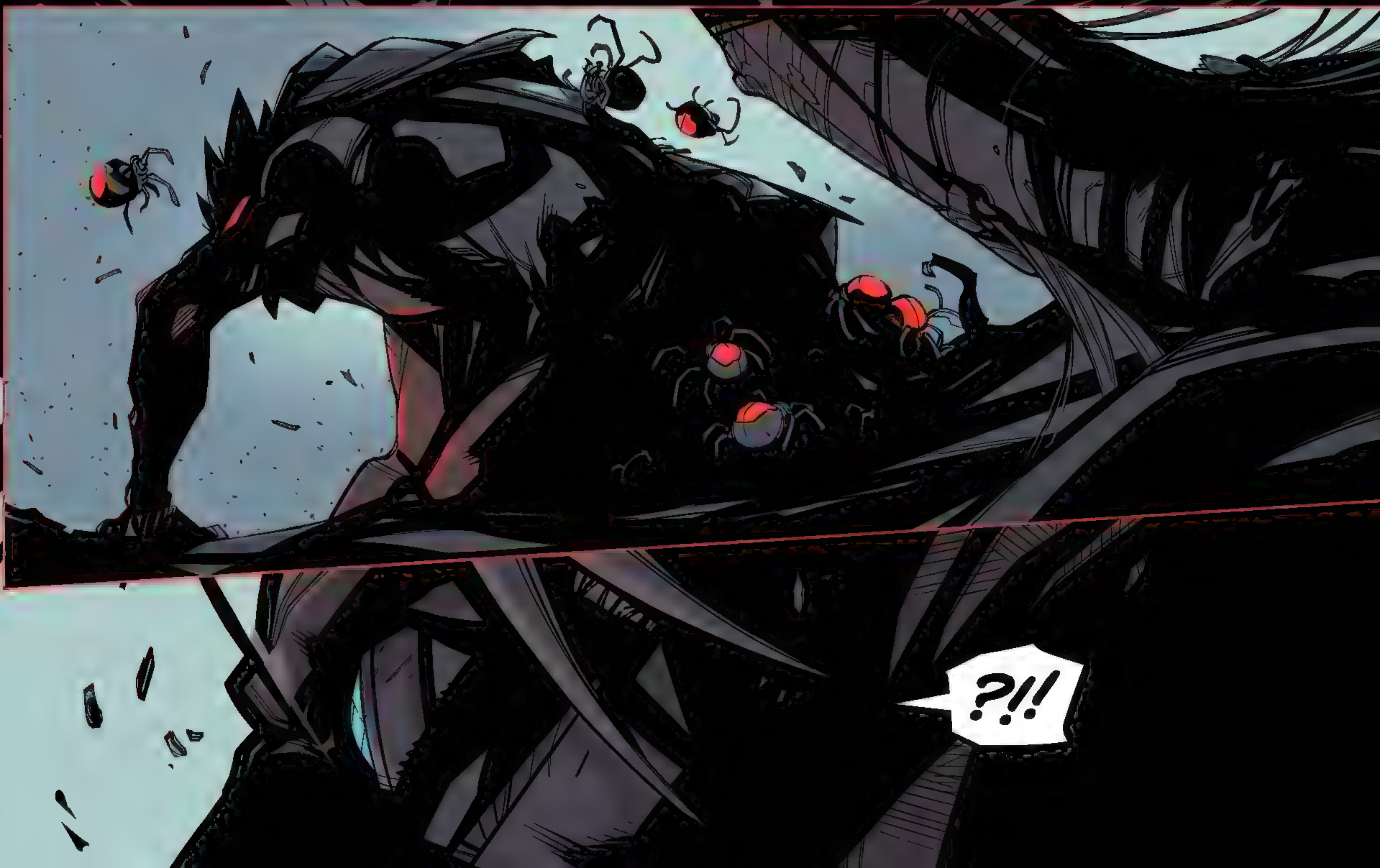
SKITTER

SKITTER

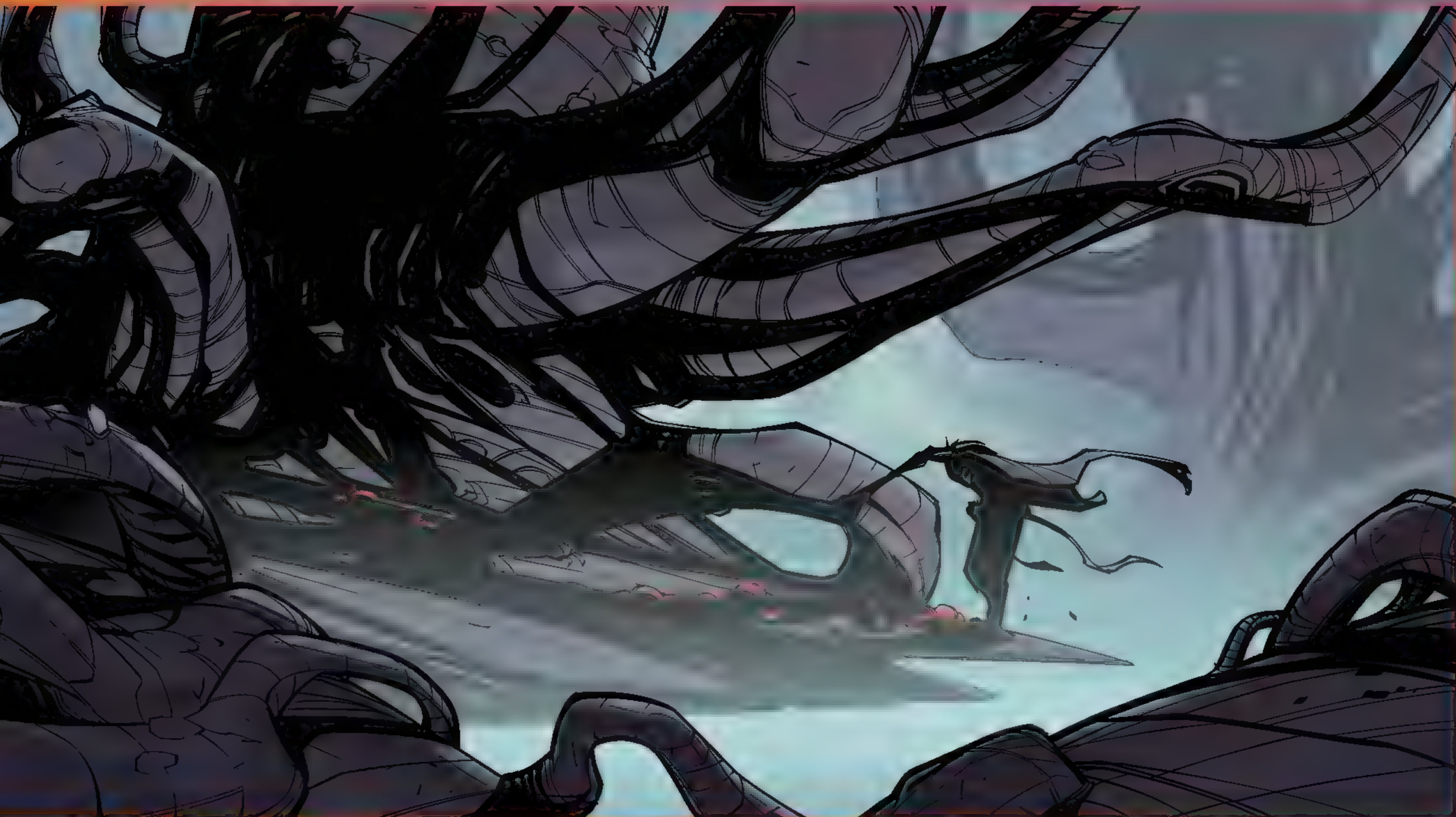
SKITTER

SKITTER

TCHUK



?!!





DAMN IT, GARRISON. WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!

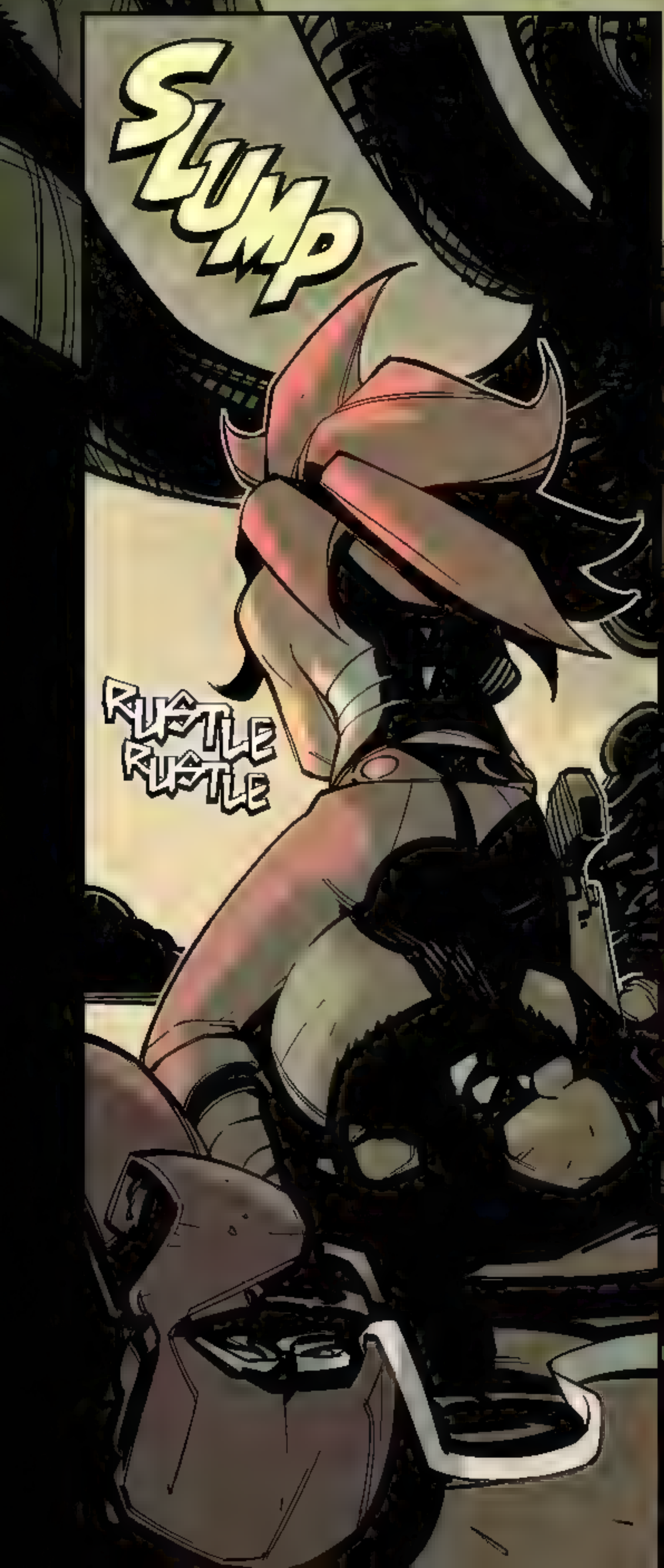
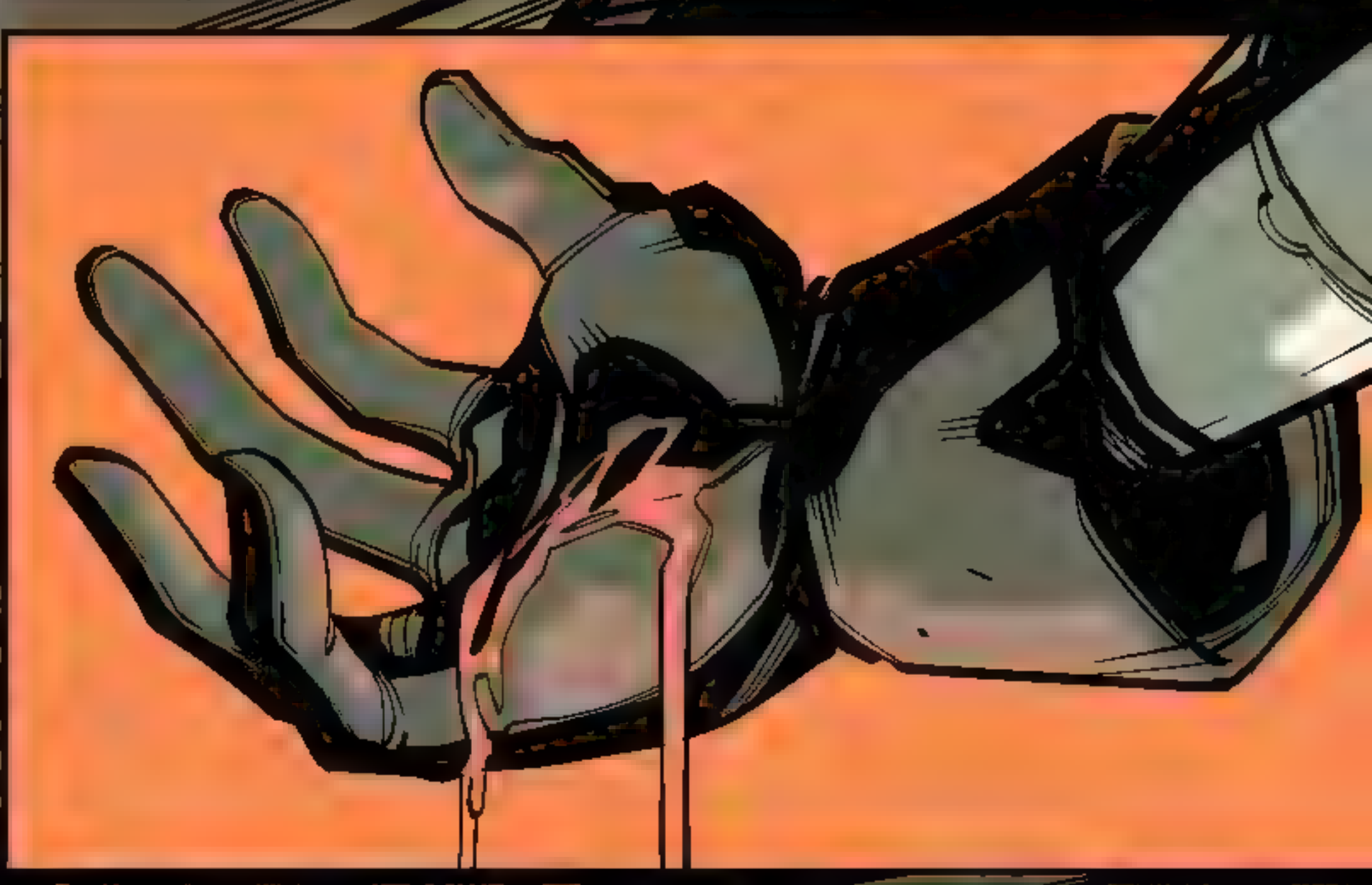
IF HE GETS HIMSELF KILLED, IT'S HIS OWN DAMNED FAULT!

...HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS...



...I...NEVER ASKED HIM TO...

NGHH!

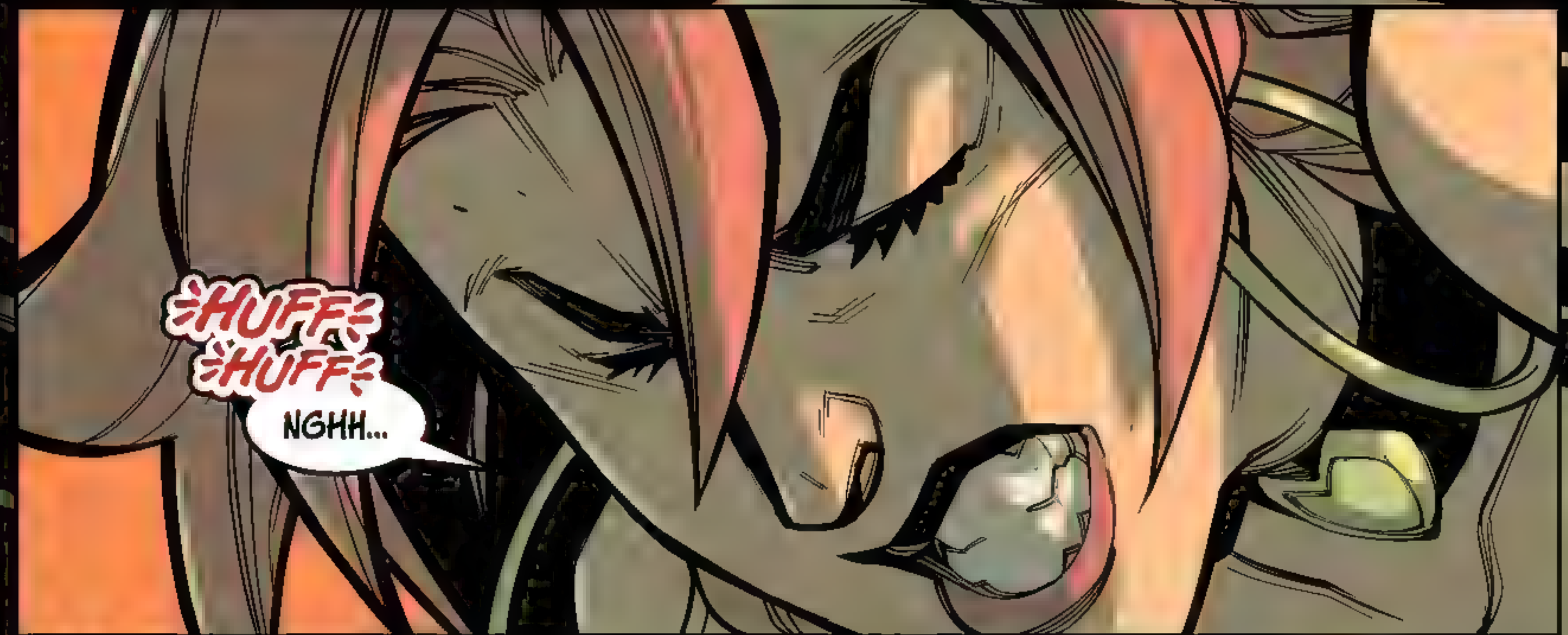


SLUMP

RUSTLE
RUSTLE



THIP



SHUFF
SHUFF

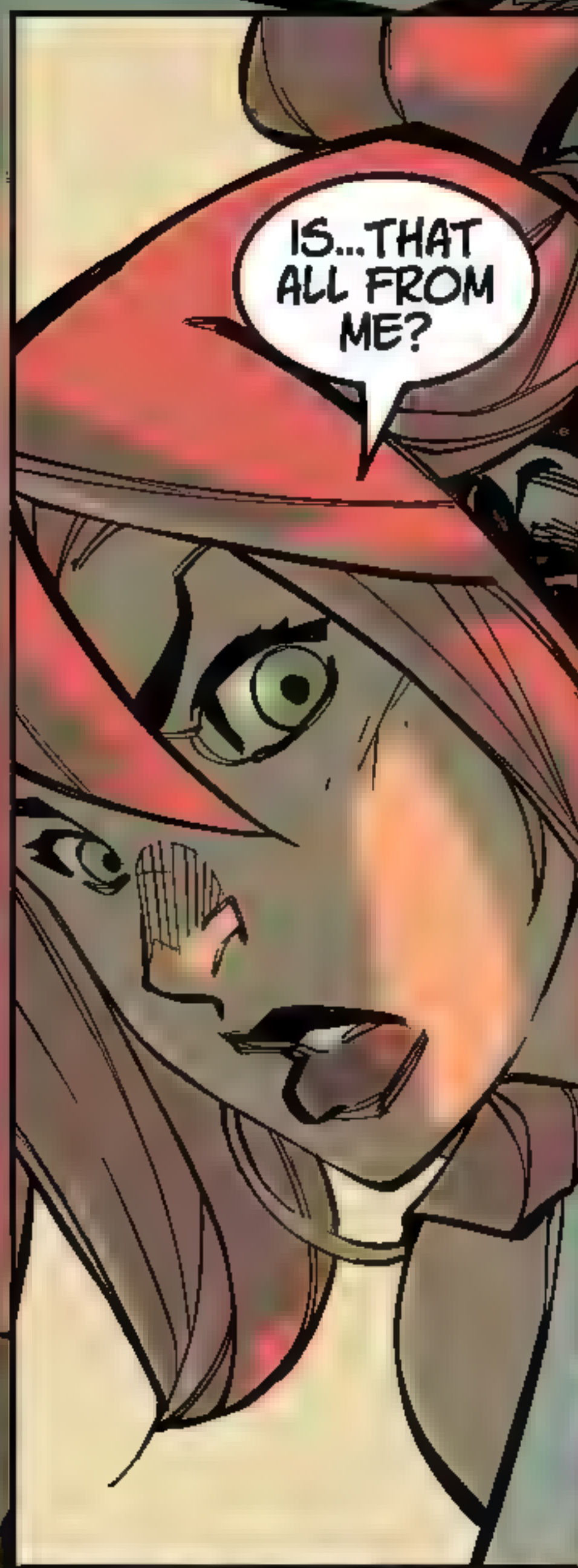
NGHH...



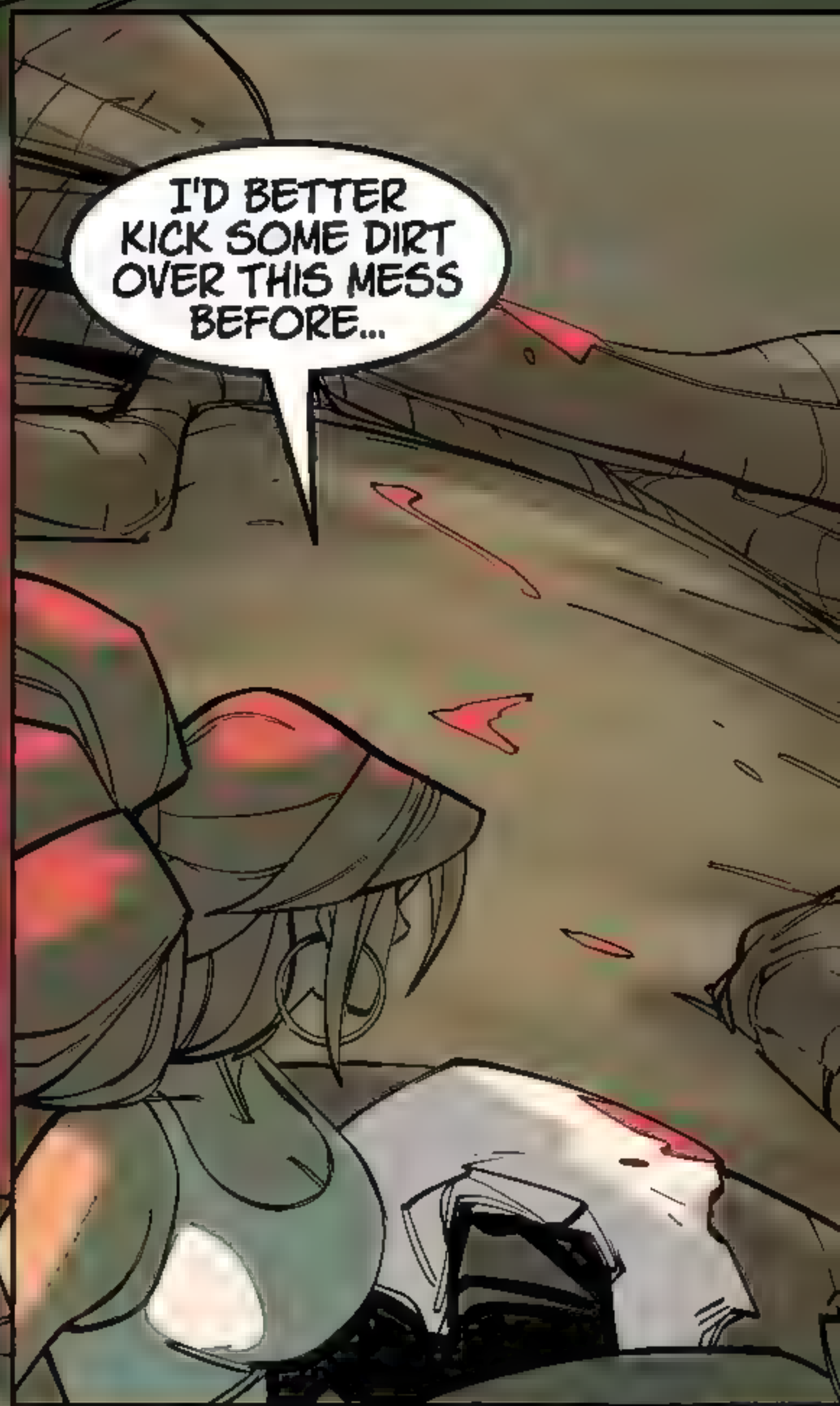
I'VE
ALREADY LOST
BENGUS.
AKIMAN...



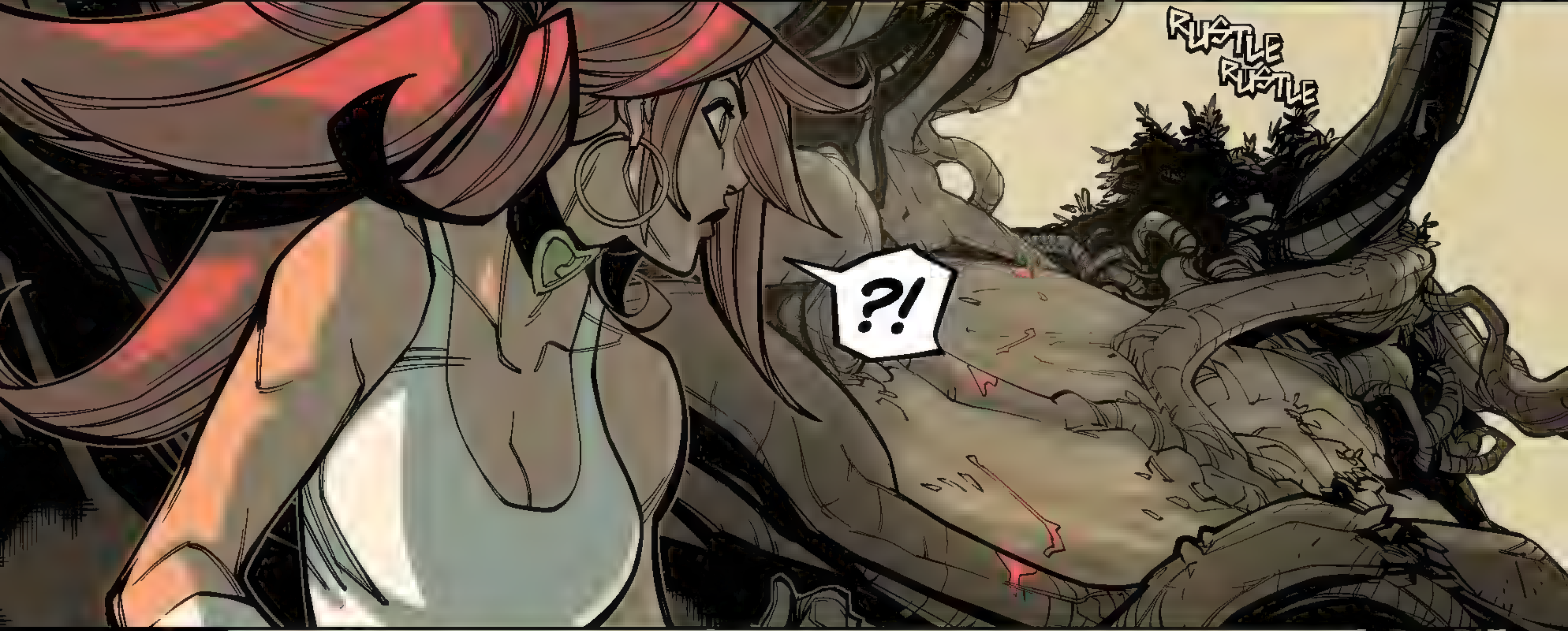
...I'M NOT
LOSING YOU,
TOO...



IS...THAT
ALL FROM
ME?



I'D BETTER
KICK SOME DIRT
OVER THIS MESS
BEFORE...



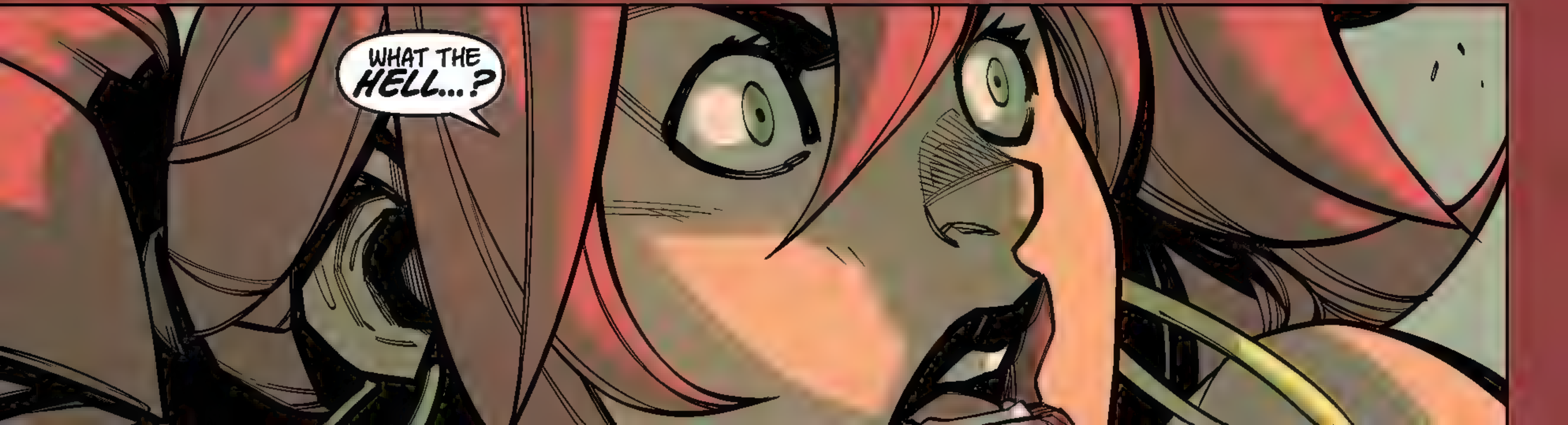
?!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

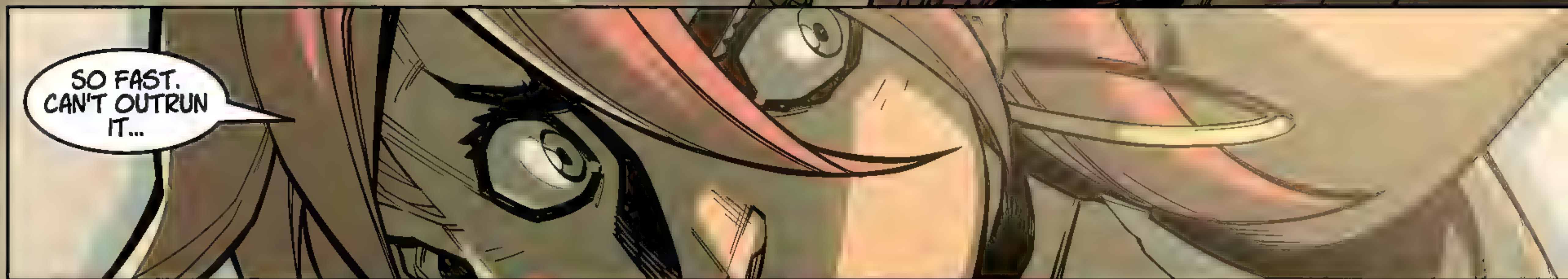


SNAPT

KRACK



WHAT THE
HELL...?



ALRIGHT,
DAMN YOU!
LET'S DO
THIS!

SPLOOSH

GRZEEEEK

Nearby.

Limbo.

Purgatory.

Thousand Cuts.

The ancient blade has gone by many names, served many masters, claimed countless lives.

For centuries it has passed from one wielder to the next, cursing each of them in turn.

Few can carry its burden for long.

VRRRNNNN

Others have
no choice.



WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
HIM? WHAT THE
HELL IS HE
DOING?

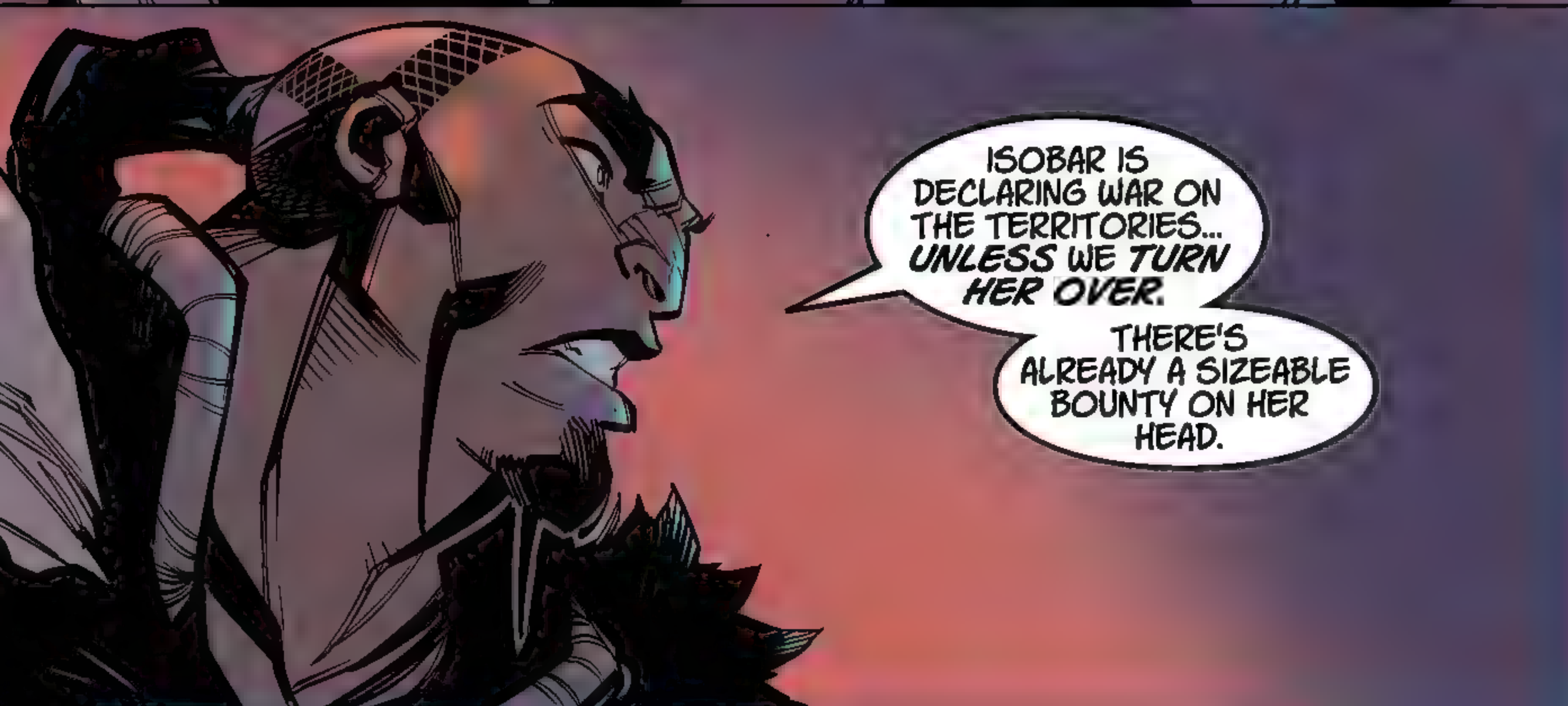




MONIKA'S
TOO. BUT SHE
HAS TO STAND
TRIAL.

HE'S
JOKING, RIGHT?
I'M COLLECTING
THAT BOUNTY...

...



ISOBAR IS
DECLARING WAR ON
THE TERRITORIES...
UNLESS WE TURN
HER OVER.

THERE'S
ALREADY A SIZEABLE
BOUNTY ON HER
HEAD.



GARRISON.
DROP THE
SWORD.

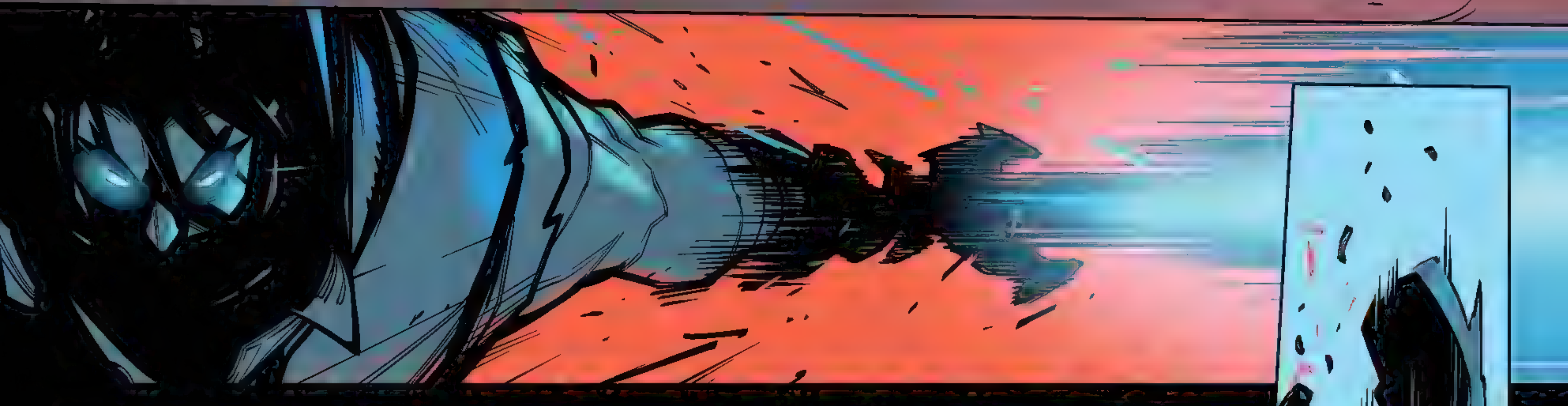
VR
RV
N

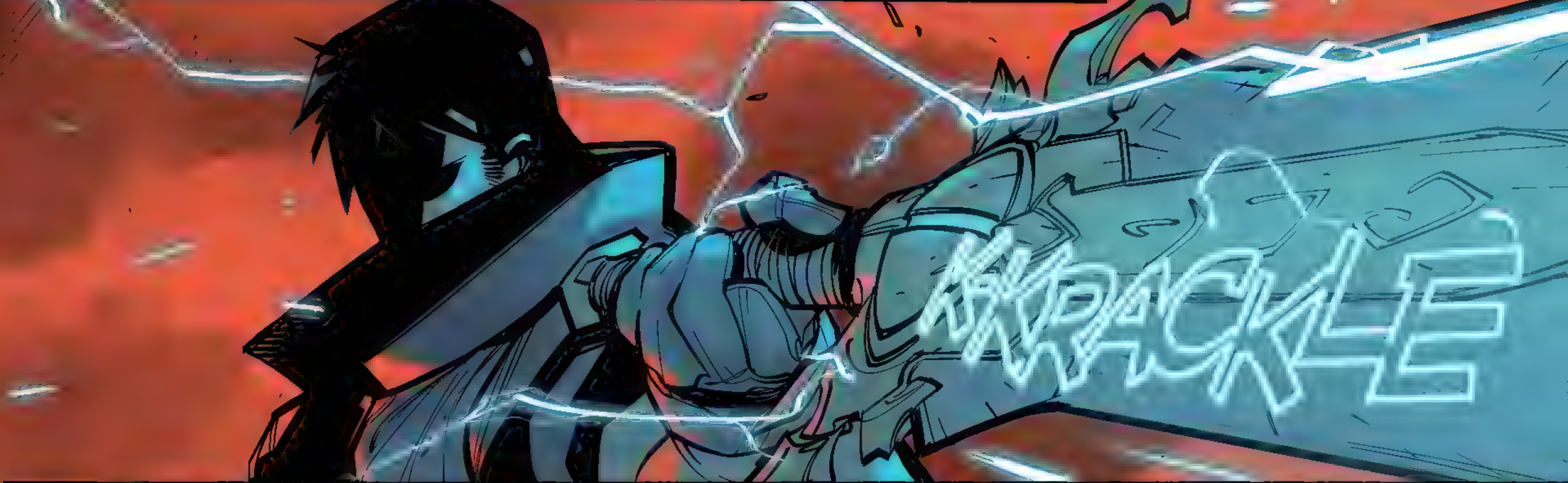
IF SHE
RUNS--YOU CAN'T
PROTECT HER.

HELP US
BRING HER IN--
AND THERE MAY BE
A CHANCE.



WHICH
ONE OF
YOU...BURNED
DOWN MY
HOUSE?







IT'S **NOTHING**
COMPARED TO WHAT
I'M GOING TO DO
TO YOU AND THAT
RED WHORE!



SIN. DON'T
INTERFERE.



GOOD
LUCK WITH
THAT...
HEH.

CHING
KTINK

FSHINK



...



SKSHHH

YOU'RE
A WASTE.
LIMBO
DESERVES
BETTER!

IT'S
BROKEN
YOU, HASN'T
IT? YOU'RE
AFRAID.

TCHING

ME?
I'D MAKE
GOOD USE OF
A WEAPON
LIKE THAT.

MY
WHOLE
DAMNED
BODY IS A
WEAPON!

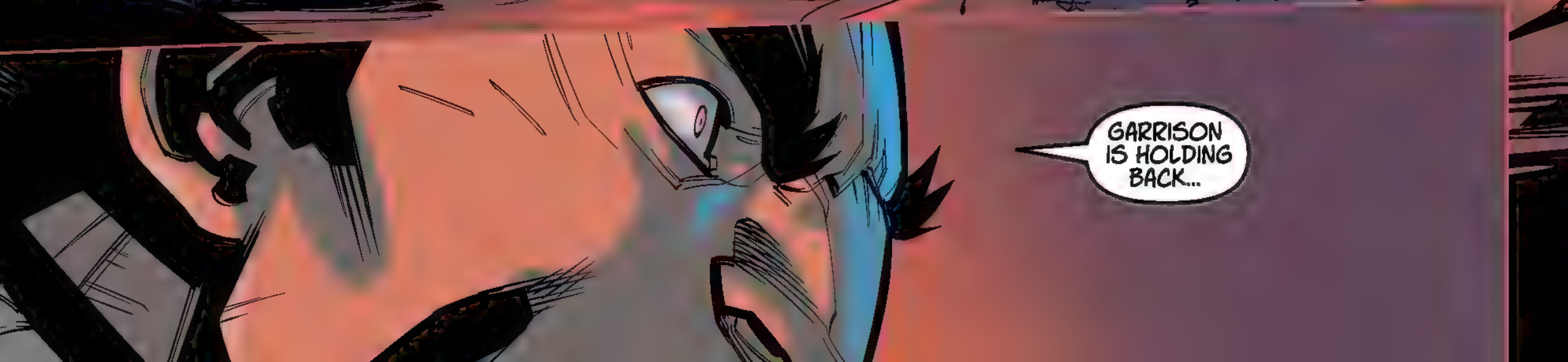
SCHLIK

HIS SKIN
IS LIKE LIVING
ARMOR.

BUT HE
HAS TO FOCUS
IT ON A SINGLE
SPOT...

THERE!

ARGH!



LIMBO'S
EYE IS
SHUT.

SHIKT

GET
UP!

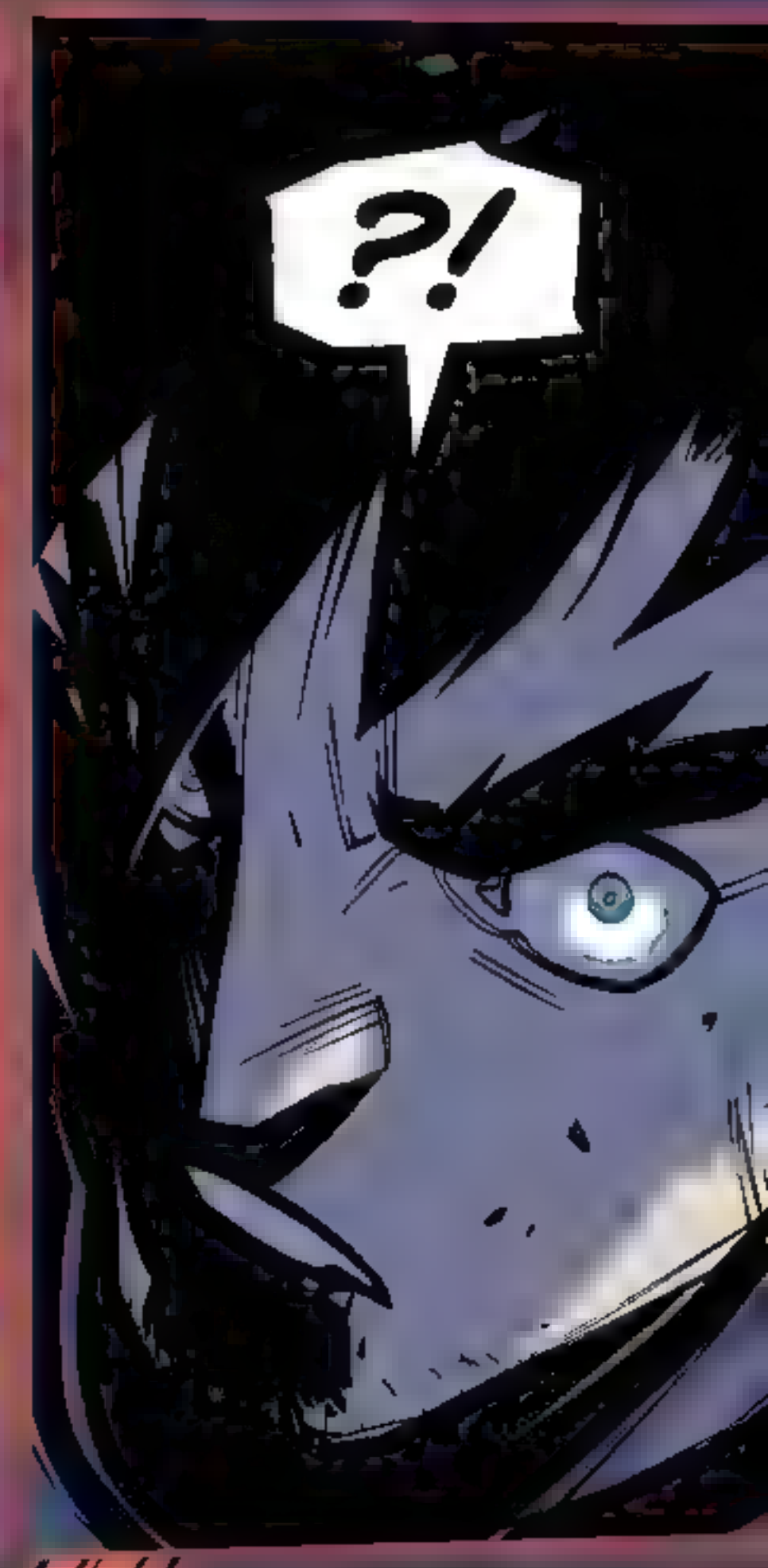
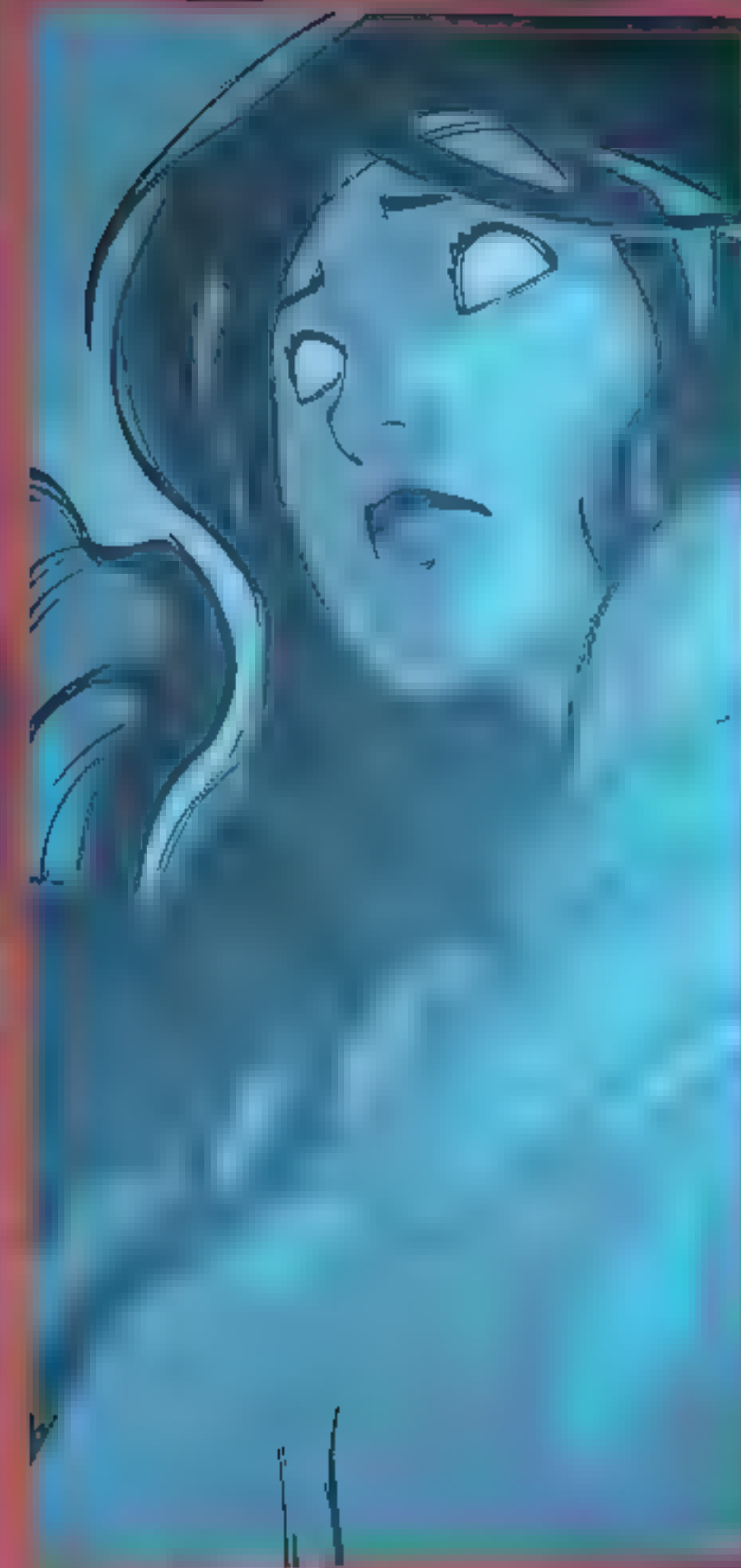
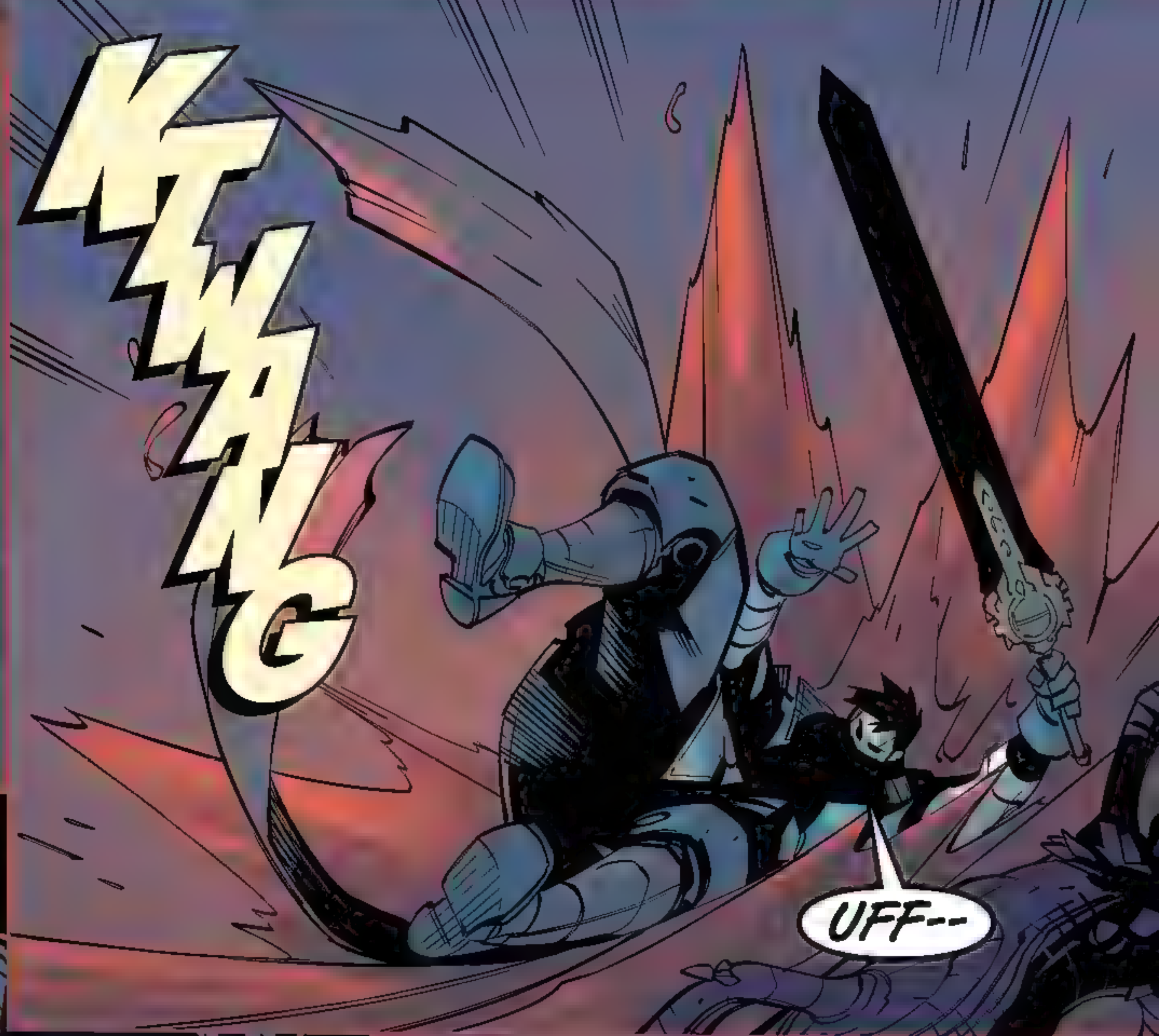
HE'S
STOPPED
USING ITS
POWER

HUFF--
HURGH!

THIS...
NGH...
SHOULD
STOP THE
BLEEDING!

I
TOLD
YOU...

...MY ENTIRE
BODY IS A
WEAPON!!





I WAS
THERE THAT DAY...
EVERYONE
WAS...



K-KHH--

YOU
WANT TO
FORGET IT,
DON'T YOU?
THAT FUCKING
WEDDING...



MY SISTER... SHE
WAS JUST A KID. SO
EXCITED TO WITNESS THE
HONORABLE
GARRISON MARRY HIS
BRIDE-TO-BE...

IT WAS ALL
SHE COULD TALK
ABOUT. SHE WAS UP
BEFORE EVERYONE
THAT MORNING, PICKING
FLOWERS TO LAY AT
YOUR FEET.

DID YOU
EVEN NOTICE
THEM? THE
FLOWERS YOU
TRAMPLED
OVER?

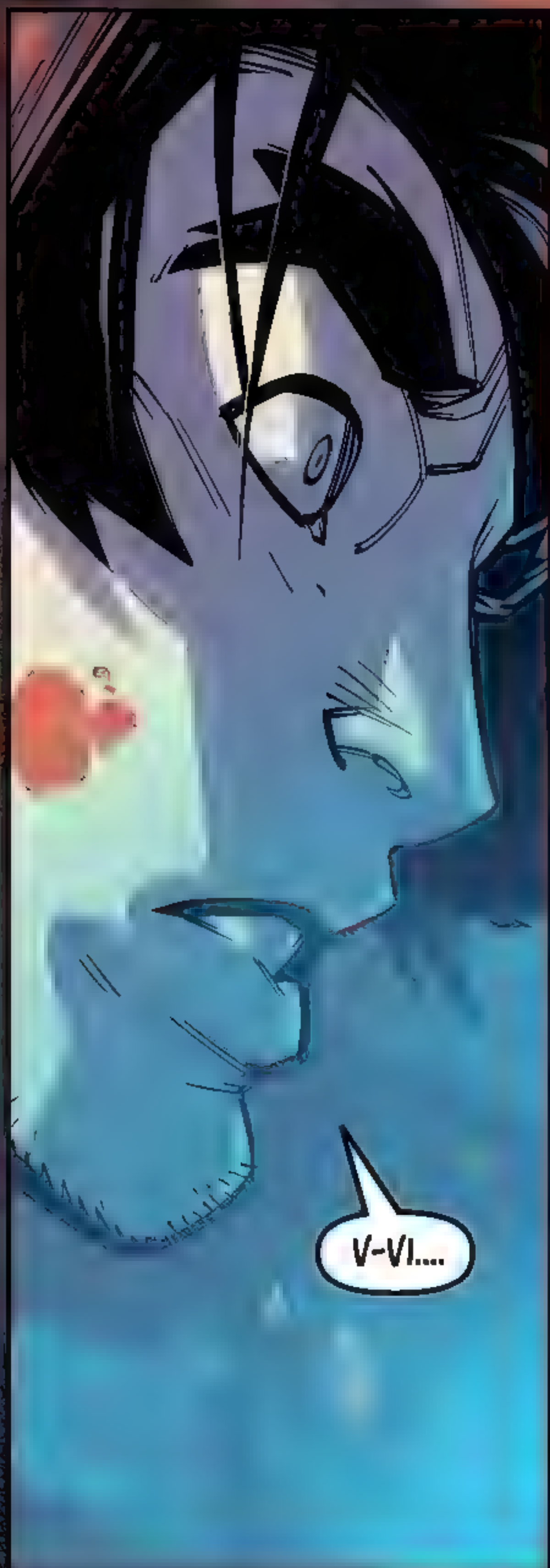
SPLISH



YOU,
AND
THAT PRETTY
BRIDE OF
YOURS...

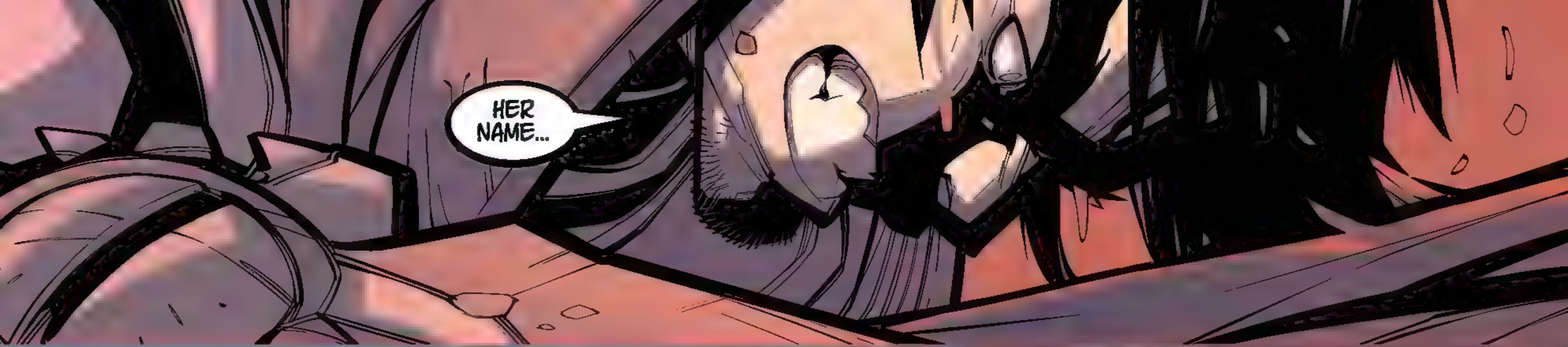
GLURGH!

HMM...
WHAT WAS
HER NAME?

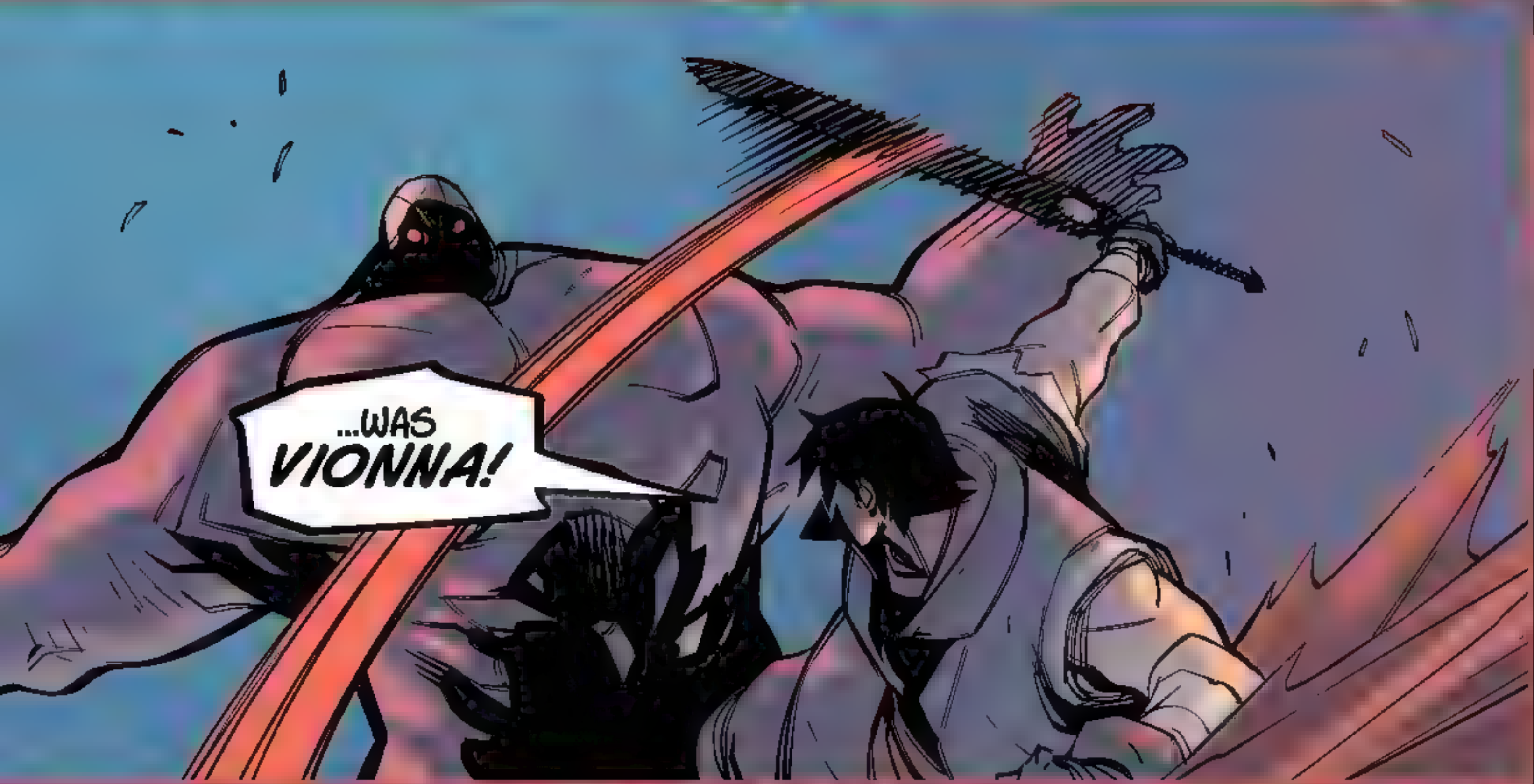


V-VI....





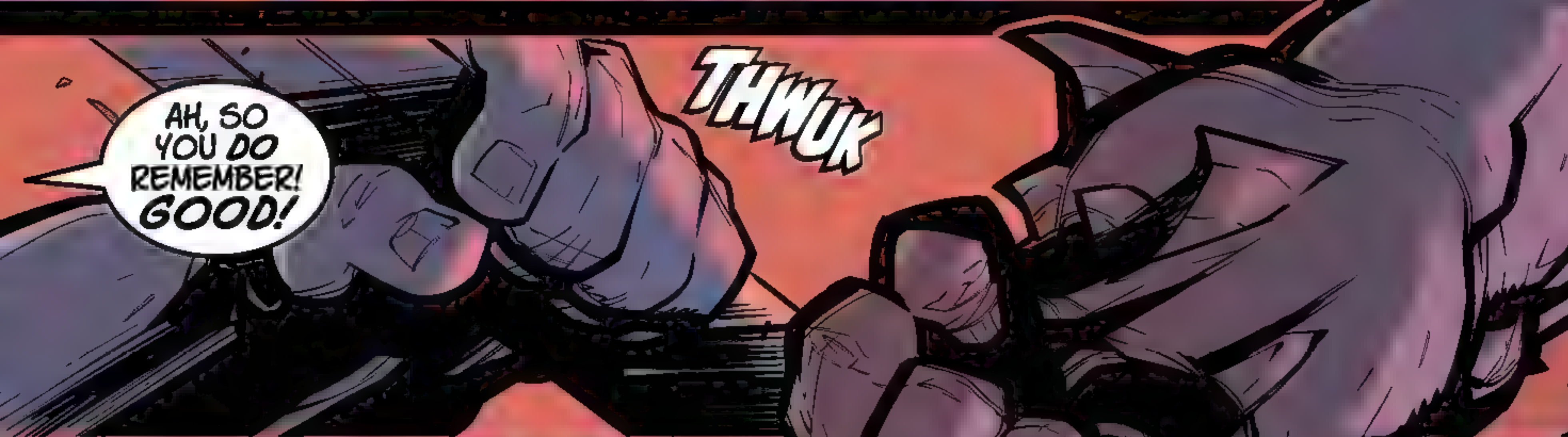
HER
NAME...



...WAS
VIONNA!



THEN
YOU MUST
REMEMBER WHAT
YOU DID TO HER.
TO **ALL** THOSE
PEOPLE...



AH, SO
YOU DO
REMEMBER!
GOOD!

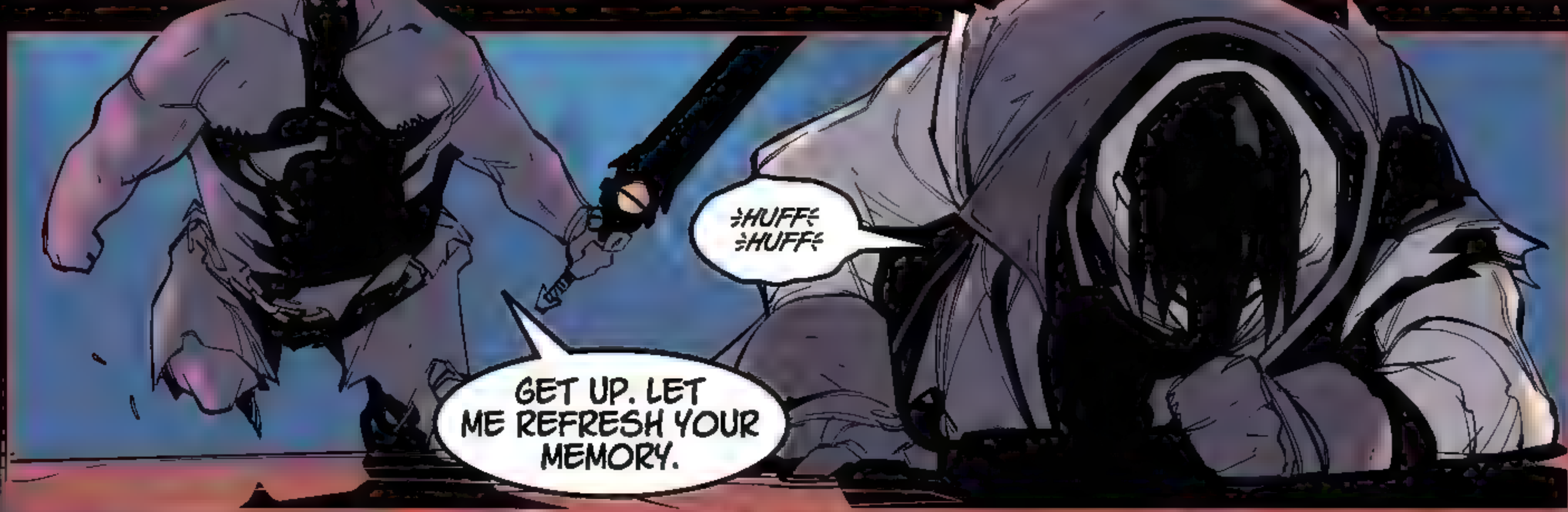
THWUK

WHAT
YOU DID TO
**MY BABY
SISTER!**



THWAM

SKDD



**HUFF
HUFF**

GET UP. LET
ME REFRESH YOUR
MEMORY.



YOU
TOOK THIS
SWORD...



...THIS
LEGENDARY,
CURSED
FUCKING
SWORD....



HUFF
HUFF

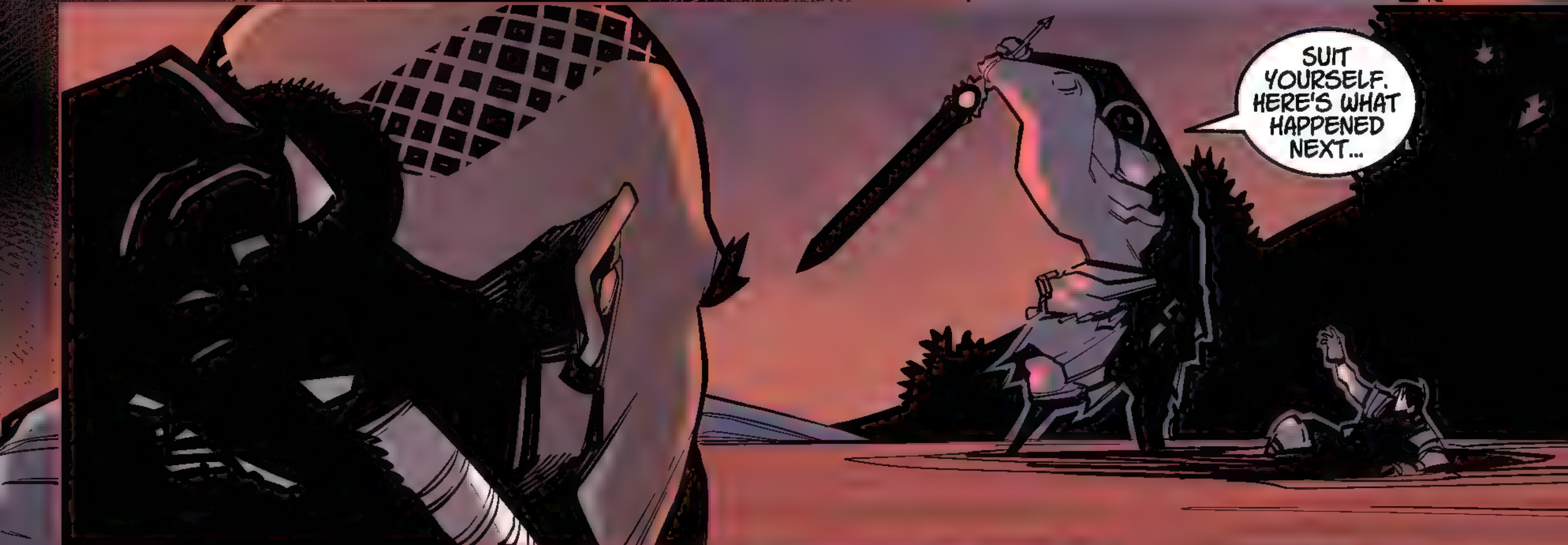


GET UP.

I-I'M...
SORRY...



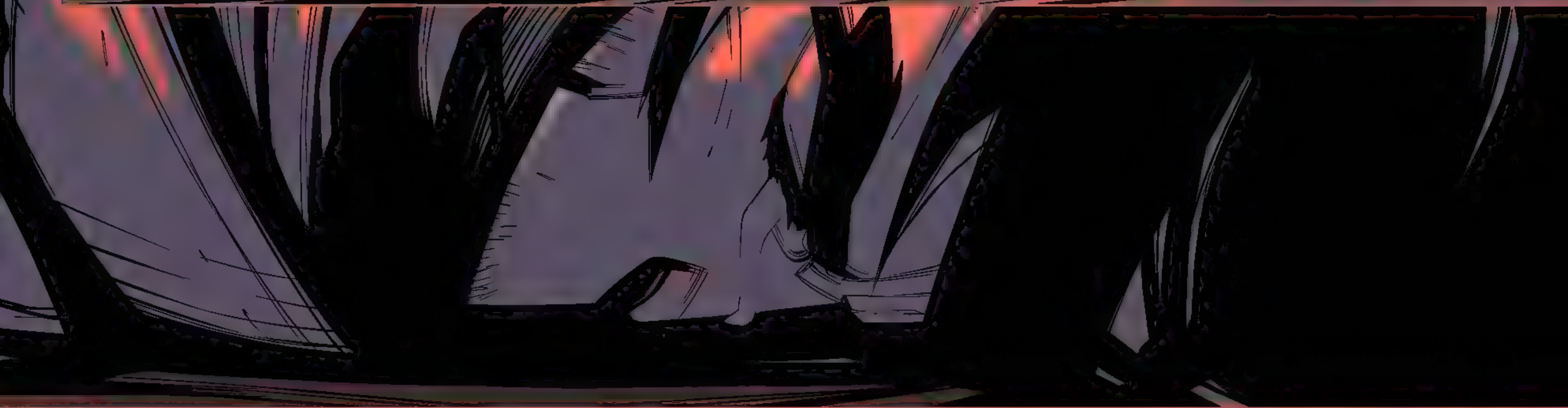
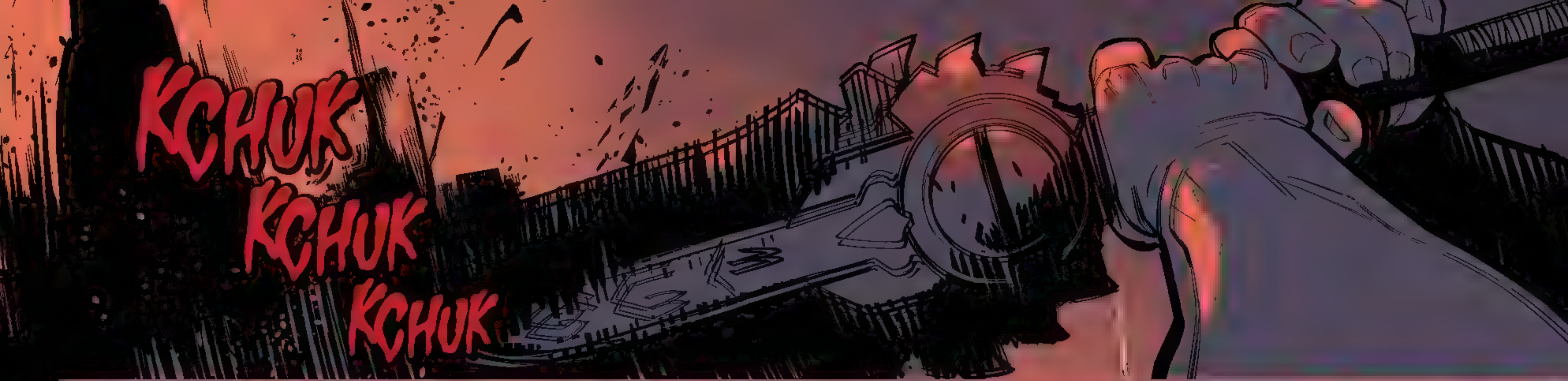
PATHETIC...



SUIT
YOURSELF.
HERE'S WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT...



KERCHUKT





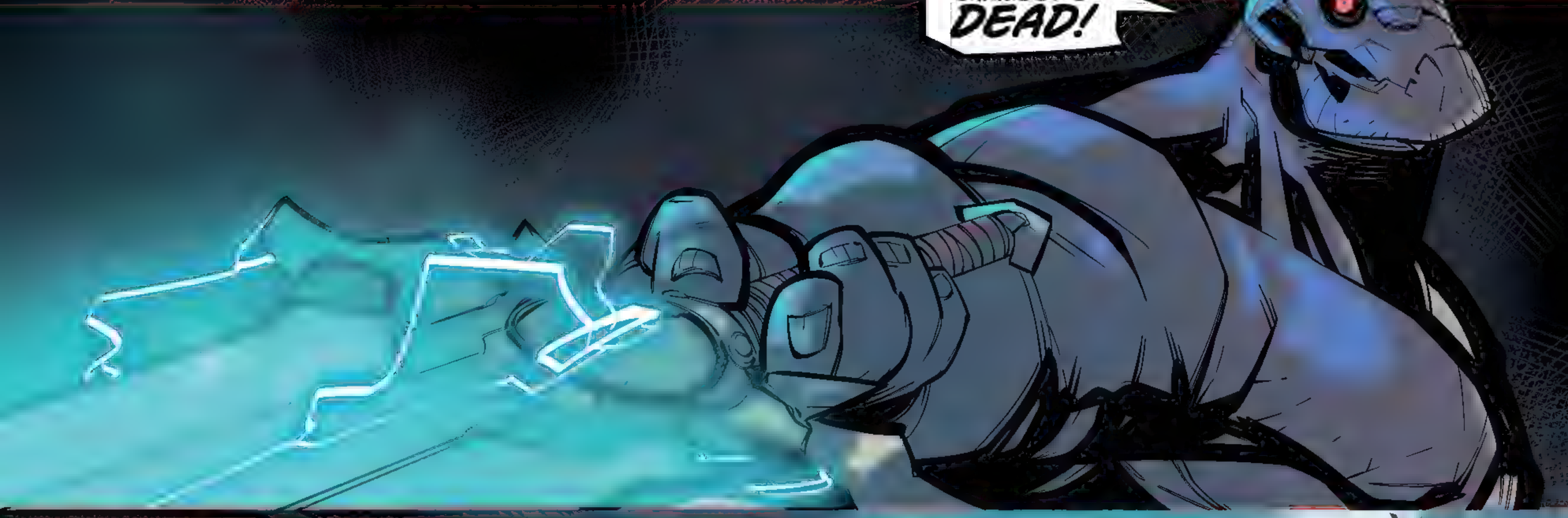


IT'S DONE.
BIND THE SWORD
TO ME.

AS LIMBO'S
FORMER MASTER,
I **COULD** DO THAT.
INDEED, IT WOULD SEEK
TO REBIND ITSELF TO
ME UPON GARRISON'S
DEATH...

BUT
NOT UNTIL
THEN...

DON'T
TOY WITH ME,
GARRISON'S
DEAD!



HMM.



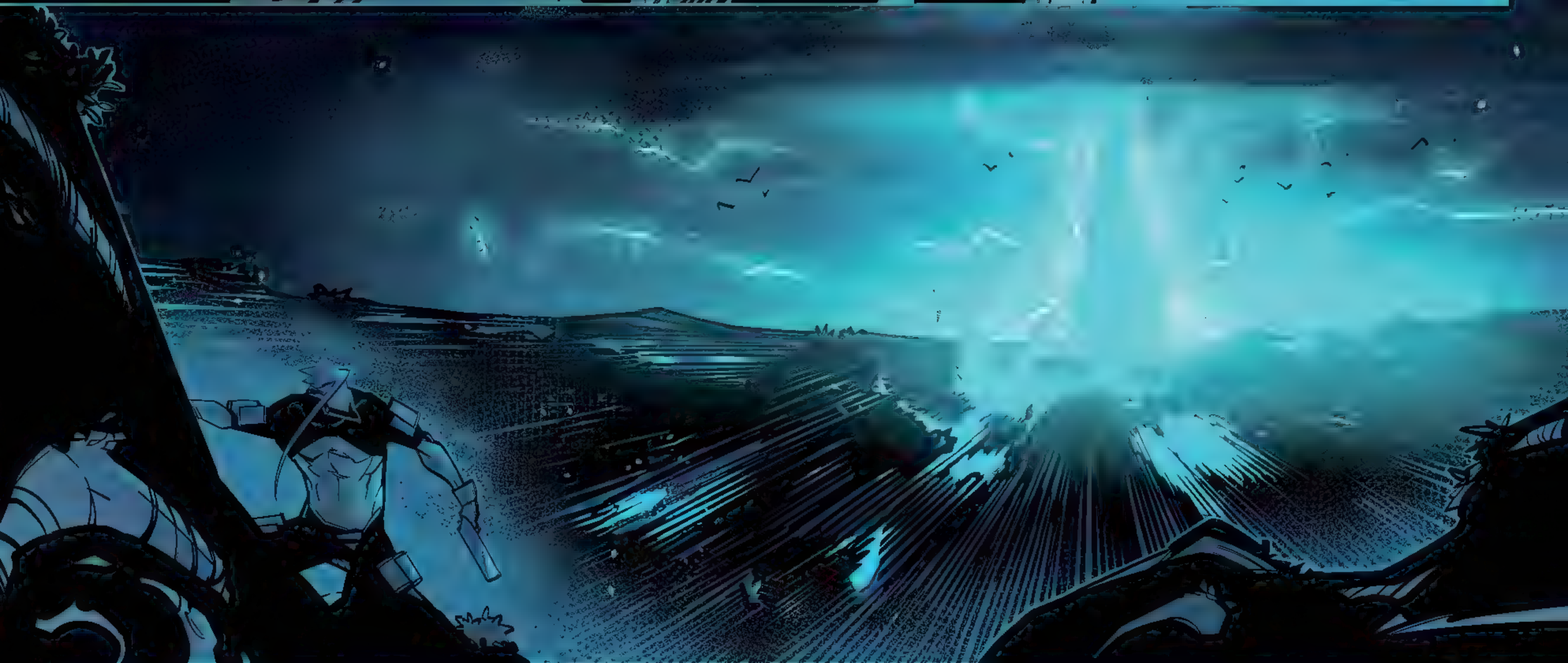
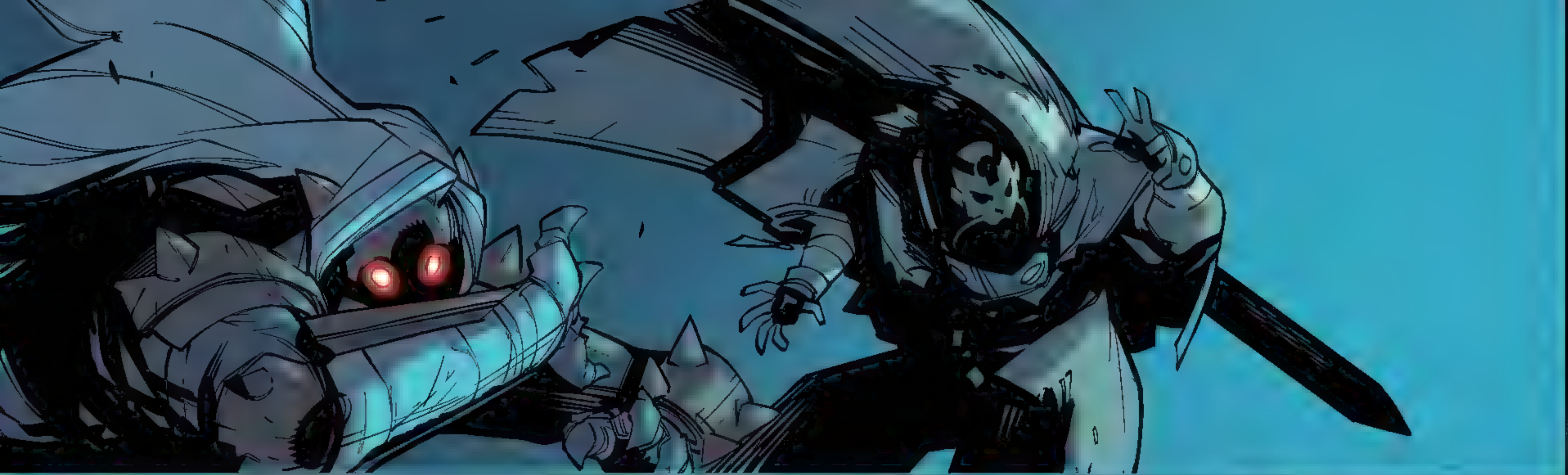
ARGH!
WHAT THE--?!
I CAN'T--
HOLD ON
TO IT!

VRRNN



GWOOM

UGH!





TO BE CONTINUED

NEXT!











MARTIAL LAW

PART TWO

JOE MADUREIRA
STORY

LUDD LULLABI
ART

**RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT'S TYLER SMITH**
LETTERS

JOE MADUREIRA
COLORS BY **BILLY GARRETSEN**
LUDD LULLABI
JONBOY MEYERS
COVERS

MUNIER SHARRIEFF
AIRSHIP SYNDICATE
SPECIAL THANKS

BATTLE CHASERS
CREATED BY
JOE MADUREIRA



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Sue Korpela — accounting & hr manager
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Hilary D'Isoreto — print manager
Tricia Ramos — traffic manager
Melissa Gifford — content manager
Erika Schnatz — senior production artist
Wesley Griffith — production artist
Rich Fowles — production artist

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RATED **M** / MATURE



JOE MADUREIRA

LUDO LULLABI

12



MARTIAL LAW

PART THREE

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STORY

LUDO LULLABI

ART

**RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT'S TYLER SMITH**

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JONBOY MEYERS

STANLEY ARTGERM LAU

REIQ

ANDREW COCKROACH

DERRICK CHEW

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URIK,
PLEASE. CAN
WE TALK ABOUT
THIS?

YOU'VE
GROWN TOO
FAMILIAR, *WIZARD*.
DANGEROUSLY SO.
MY HOSPITALITY HAS
LIMITS, AS DOES
MY PATIENCE.

RIGHT, OF
COURSE. *YOUR
GRACE...*

GULLY'S
A GOOD KID! SHE'S
BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
SHE'S *SCARED* AND
CONFUSED. GO
EASY ON HER...

PRAY
THERE ARE NO
CASUALTIES.
FOR HER SAKE,
AND YOURS.

EASY?

THIS CHILD,
WHILE IN YOUR CARE,
BREACHED A HEAVILY GUARDED
STRONGHOLD. ASSAULTED MY
MEN. *STOLE* AN ARTIFACT OF
UNPARALLELED MILITARY
IMPORTANCE.

*YOUR
MAJESTY!*
SORRY TO HAVE
TROUBLED
YOU...

WHERE
ARE THEY?

JUST AHEAD,
SIRE. WE'VE GOT
A DOZEN MEN
DOWN.

THEY'VE
TAKEN A BEATING,
BUT THEY'RE ALL
STILL BREATHING,
FAR AS WE
CAN TELL.

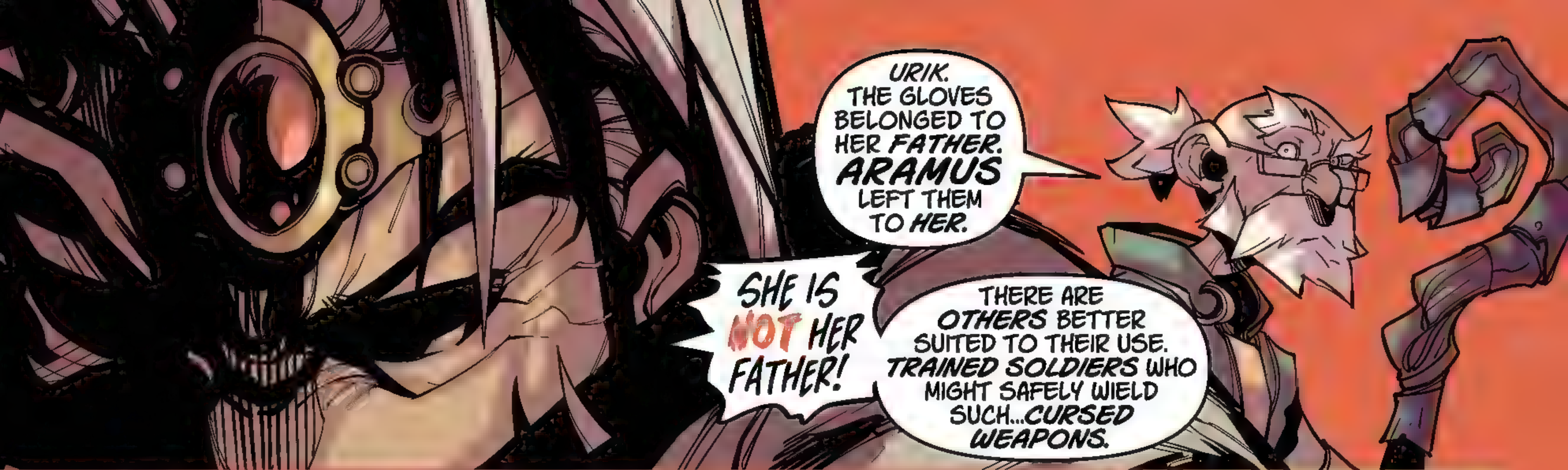
WELL,
SEE? THAT'S
NOT SO
BAD!



GET UP,
YA WIMP!

...NGHHH...

THUP



URIK.
THE GLOVES
BELONGED TO
HER **FATHER**.
ARAMUS
LEFT THEM
TO **HER**.

**SHE IS
NOT HER
FATHER!**

THERE ARE
OTHERS BETTER
SUITED TO THEIR USE.
TRAINED SOLDIERS WHO
MIGHT SAFELY WIELD
SUCH...**CURSED
WEAPONS**.



CURSED?
WHAT ARE YOU
PLAYING AT?

YOU CAN'T MEAN
GARRISON?!
THE BLADE'S RUINED HIM!
AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE LAST FOOL
WHO TRIED THOSE
GLOVES ON.

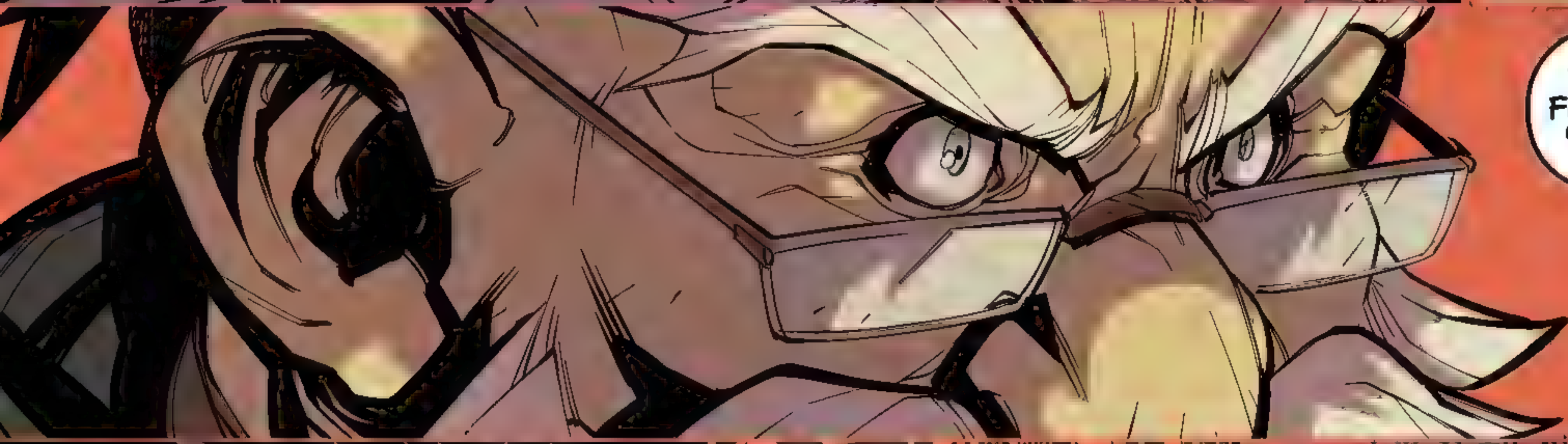
ARAMUS
CHOSE HER!
THE GLOVES
CHOSE
HER..!

CAREFUL.



I SERVED
YOUR FATHER,
AND **YOUR
GRANDFATHER**
BEFORE HIM.

AND BEFORE
**THEM--THE
BLOODBORN
KINGS OF
OLD**.



I'VE DONE
THINGS I CAN'T
FORGIVE TO HELP
YOU KEEP YOUR
SEAT.

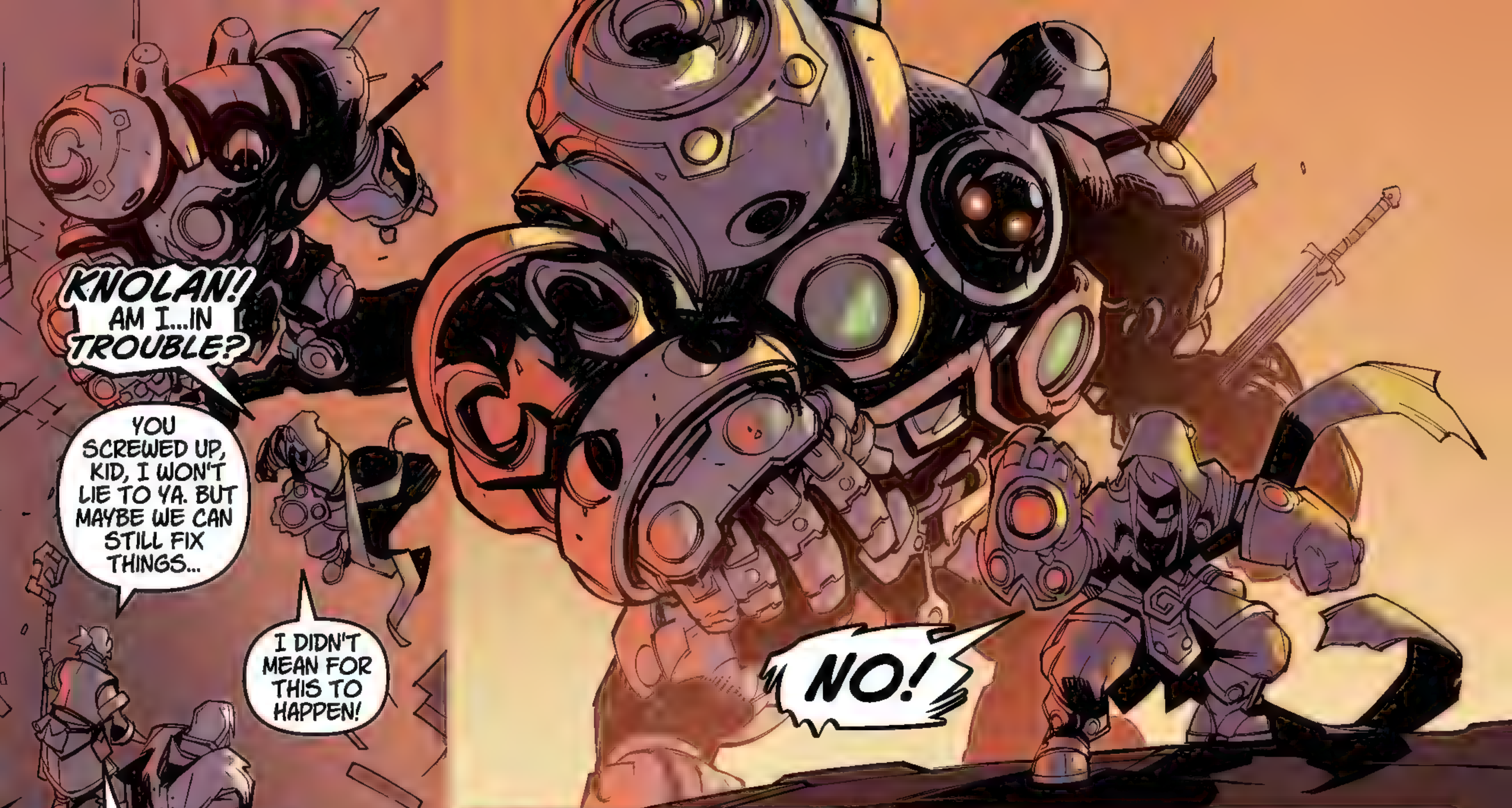
SO, I'M
ASKING WITH
ALL DUE RESPECT,
YOUR GRACE...
DO NOT FORCE ME
TO PICK A SIDE.



IT SEEMS
YOU ALREADY
HAVE. SO, FOR
EVERYONE'S
SAKE...



"...LET'S HOPE THIS
CHILD OF ARAMUS
CHOOSES REASON."



KNOLAN!
AM I...IN
TROUBLE?

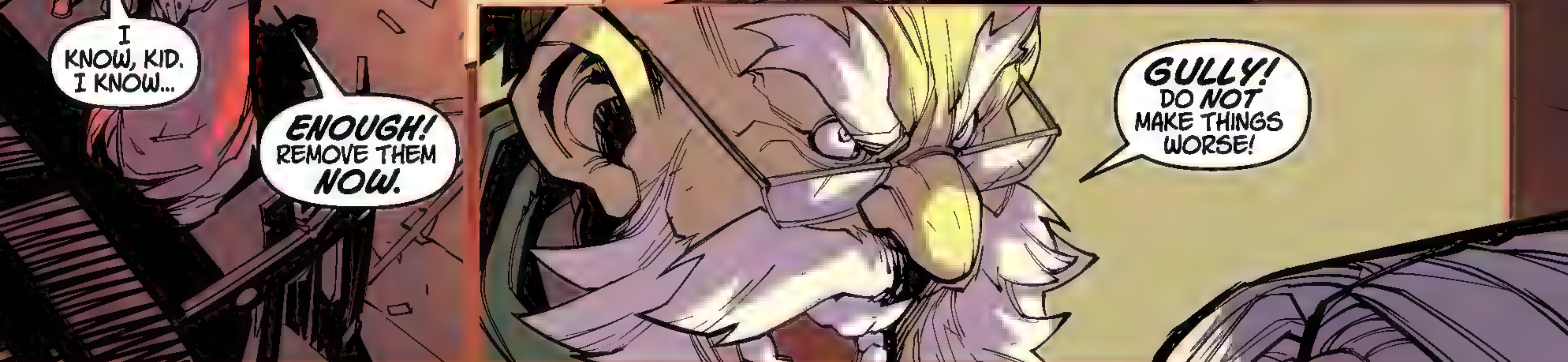
YOU
SCREWED UP,
KID, I WON'T
LIE TO YA. BUT
MAYBE WE CAN
STILL FIX
THINGS...

I DIDN'T
MEAN FOR
THIS TO
HAPPEN!

I
KNOW, KID.
I KNOW...

ENOUGH!
REMOVE THEM
NOW.

NO!



GULLY!
DO NOT
MAKE THINGS
WORSE!



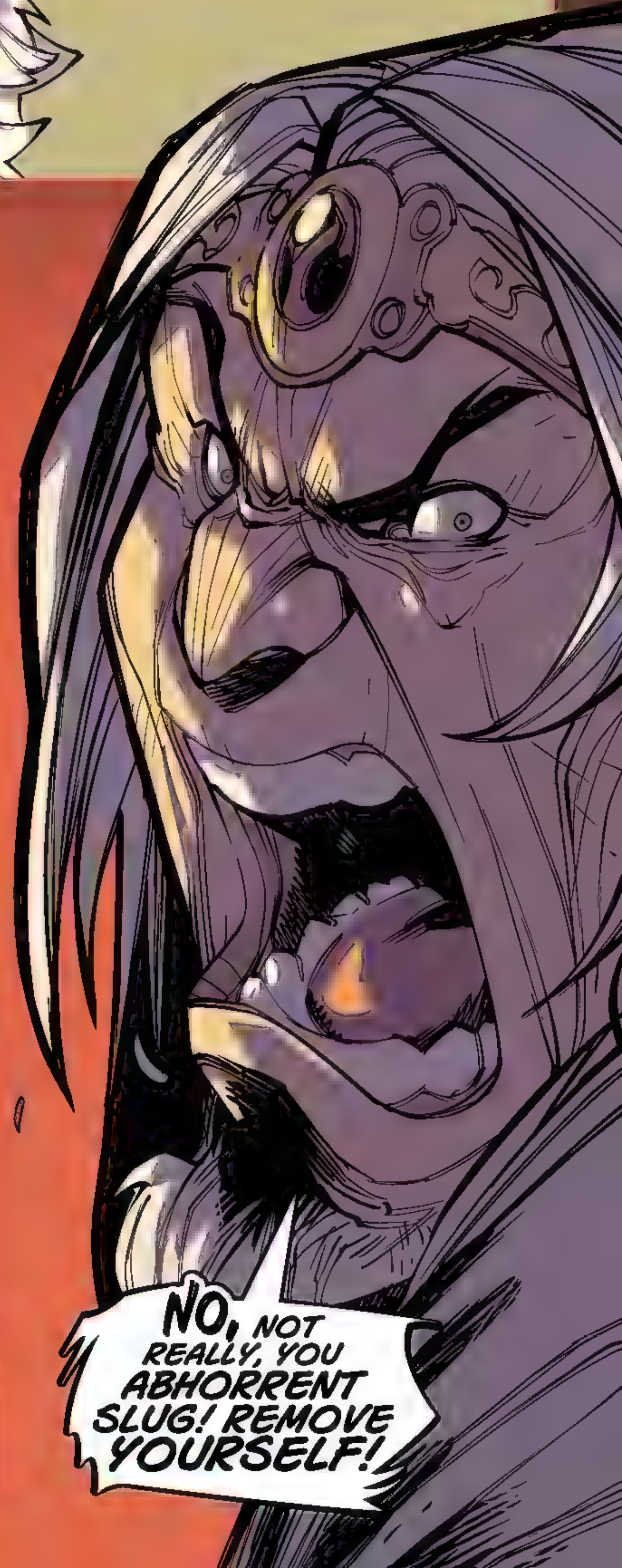
YOU! COME
FORWARD. YOU
WERE BESTED
BY THIS CHILD,
WERE YOU?

YES, YOUR
GRACE--WELL, NO--
NOT EXACTLY.
T'WAS THE BIG ONE
DONE MOST OF THE
FIGHTIN'. I...DON'T
BELIEVE THE CHILD IS
DANGEROUS.

HM.
THEN YOU
WILL DISARM
HER?



S-SIRE?
R-REALLY?



**NO, NOT
REALLY, YOU
ABHORRENT
SLUG! REMOVE
YOURSELF!**

CALIBRETTO!

YOU DID ALL THIS?!!
WHAT IN THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!

HMMZZZT...

THIS IS WHY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF YOU! THEY'D LOVE ANY EXCUSE TO PULL YOU APART, UNDERSTAND? NOW YOU'VE GIVEN THEM REASON!

IF I CAN'T EVEN TRUST YOU, WHY SHOULD THEY?!

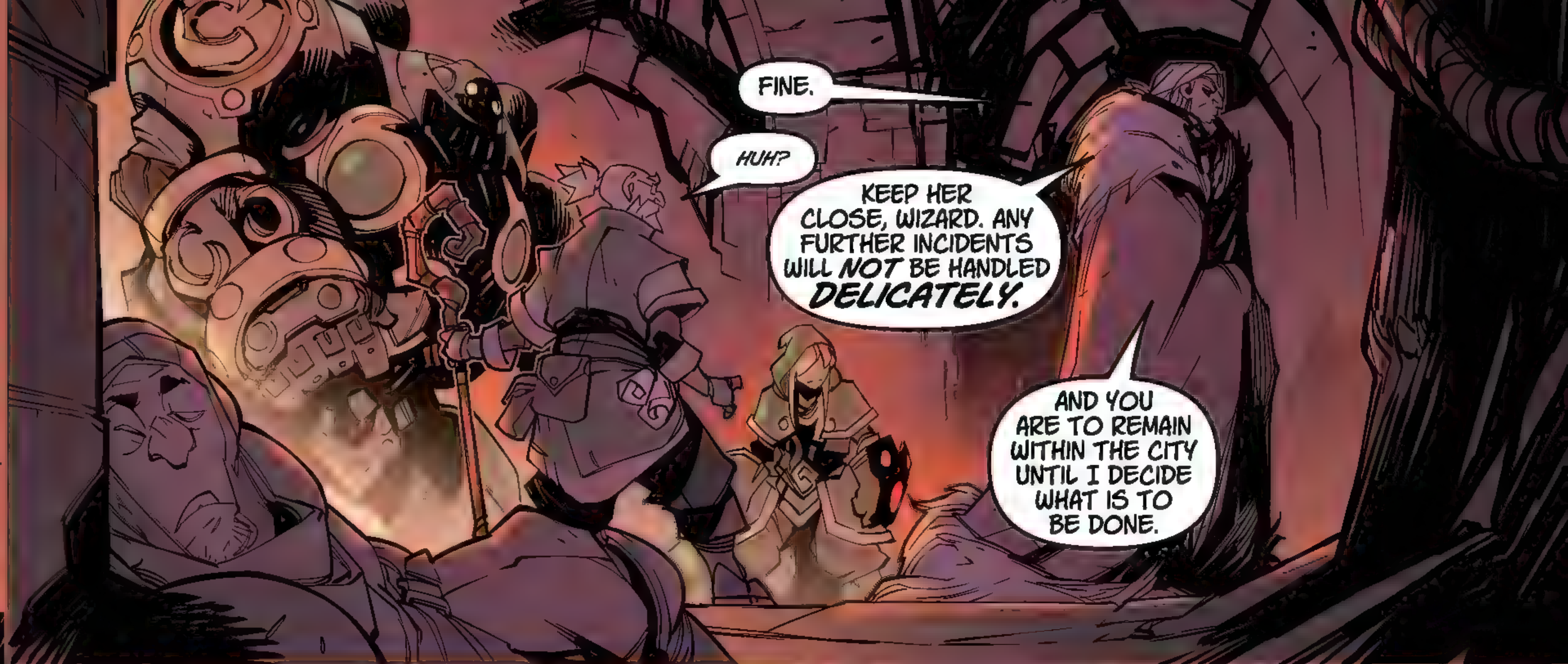
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT--THEY ATTACKED US FIRST!

BRETTO WAS PROTECTING ME!

I WOULDN'T NEED PROTECTING IF I HAD MY GLOVES!

YOU SAID WE WERE YOUR GUESTS!

NOT YOUR PRISONERS!
YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE OUR THINGS!



FINE.

HUH?

KEEP HER
CLOSE, WIZARD. ANY
FURTHER INCIDENTS
WILL **NOT** BE HANDLED
DELICATELY.

AND YOU
ARE TO REMAIN
WITHIN THE CITY
UNTIL I DECIDE
WHAT IS TO
BE DONE.



WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO DO
WITH THAT MAN YOU
LOCKED UP?

YOUR CRIMINAL
BROTHER?

HE'S
NOT...



TOMORROW,
AT FIRST LIGHT...
HE WILL BE
EXECUTED.



YOU
CAN WATCH
IF YOU'D
LIKE.





WHAT IS THIS? WHERE'S **GARRISON**?

THAT'S A COMPLICATED QUESTION...AND I'M SHORT ON **TIME**. IT'S EASIER IF I **SHOW** YOU...

ACTUALLY, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT, **LIMBO** IS MINE! HAND IT OVER!

HAHAHA!
THIS ONE'S AMUSING, **MAESTRO**. BUT STUPID.



DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING, YOU DUMB PRICK? THE **BLADE** ISN'T MINE TO GIVE.

BESIDES, YOUR FATE'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED. I'M SORRY TO SAY...IT ISN'T **GOOD**.



FUCK YOU!
I KILLED YOU ONCE, I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN!

KILLED **ME?**
WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS.

IT WAS
MAESTRO THERE
THAT DID THE DEED,
WAAAY BEFORE
YOUR TIME.

I WAS A
REAL PIECE OF
SHIT BACK THEN--
I DESERVED IT.
JUST LIKE
YOU.

ARE
YOU A
GAMBLING
MAN?

SEE,
THE ONLY WAY
YOU'LL EVER
LAND A BLOW,
IS IF I LET
YOU...

GRRRRR...

SHLING
SHLING

RARGH!!

YOU'RE
ALREADY
EXHAUSTED,
POOR
THING...

MY SPEED,
AGAINST YOUR
STRENGTH!

HEAR ME
OUT! A SIMPLE
WAGER...

GRANT ME
A SINGLE BLOW
AGAINST YOUR
ARMOR. THEN, YOU
MAY STRIKE ME AS
MANY TIMES AS
YOU'D LIKE!

WIFF
SWING
AWAY TO YOUR
BLACK HEART'S
CONTENT,
I WON'T EVEN
FLINCH.

WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?



HEH.

KRK

KRK

KOOOOOM

HAHAHAHA!

YOU WERE
HOLDING OUT
ON ME...

SURE
YOU STILL
WANT TO
MAKE THAT
BET?!

WELL, 'A BET
WORTH MAKING
IS A RISK WORTH
TAKING', AS THEY
SAY. THE WAGER
STANDS.

READY?



HERE GOES!

RAHHRGHH!

VRRNNNNN

CHH

HAHAHA!

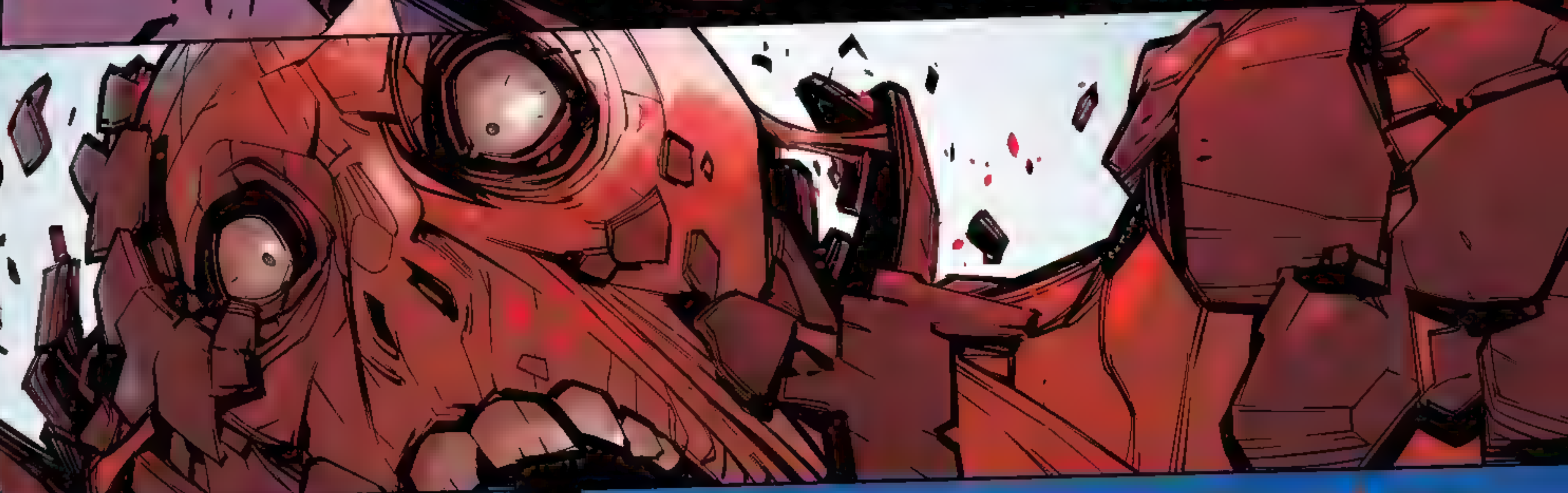
HUH.

SHING

MY TURN...



AH-
AAAARGHH!

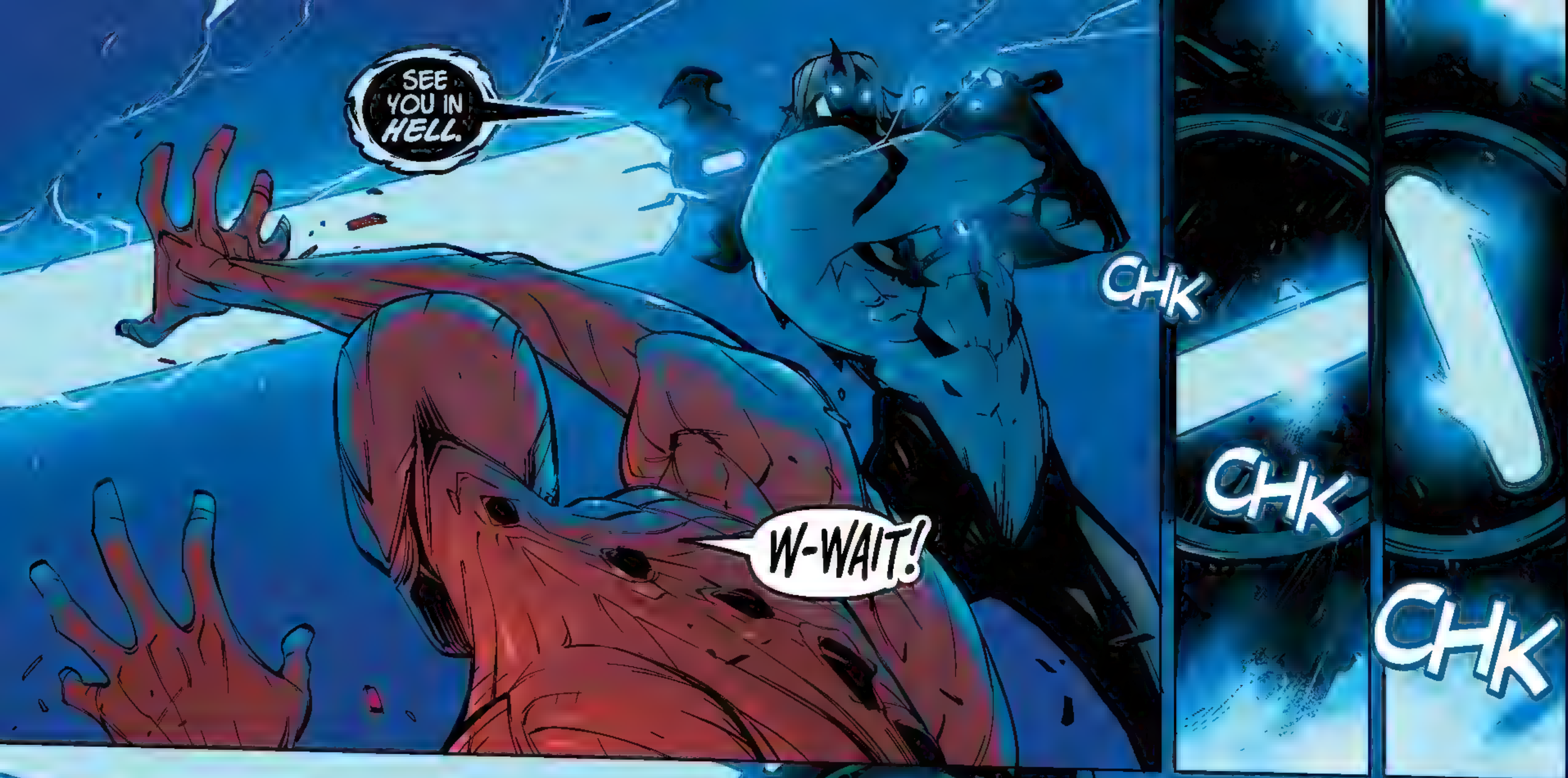


YOU KNOW,
I WASN'T SURE IF
THAT WAS YOUR ACTUAL
SKIN, OR SOME KIND OF
MAGIC ARMOR. SKIN--
THAT'S A LOT MORE
PAINFUL...



WHATEVER
YOU DID TO PISS
GARRISON OFF,
IT MUST'VE BEEN
BAD FOR HIM TO
CALL ON ME.

I GUESS
I SHOULD **THANK**
YOU. IT'S BEEN A
WHILE SINCE I GOT
TO STRETCH MY
LEGS.



SEE
YOU IN
HELL.

CHK

W-WAIT!

CHK

CHK



ARGHHHHH!



GARRISON?

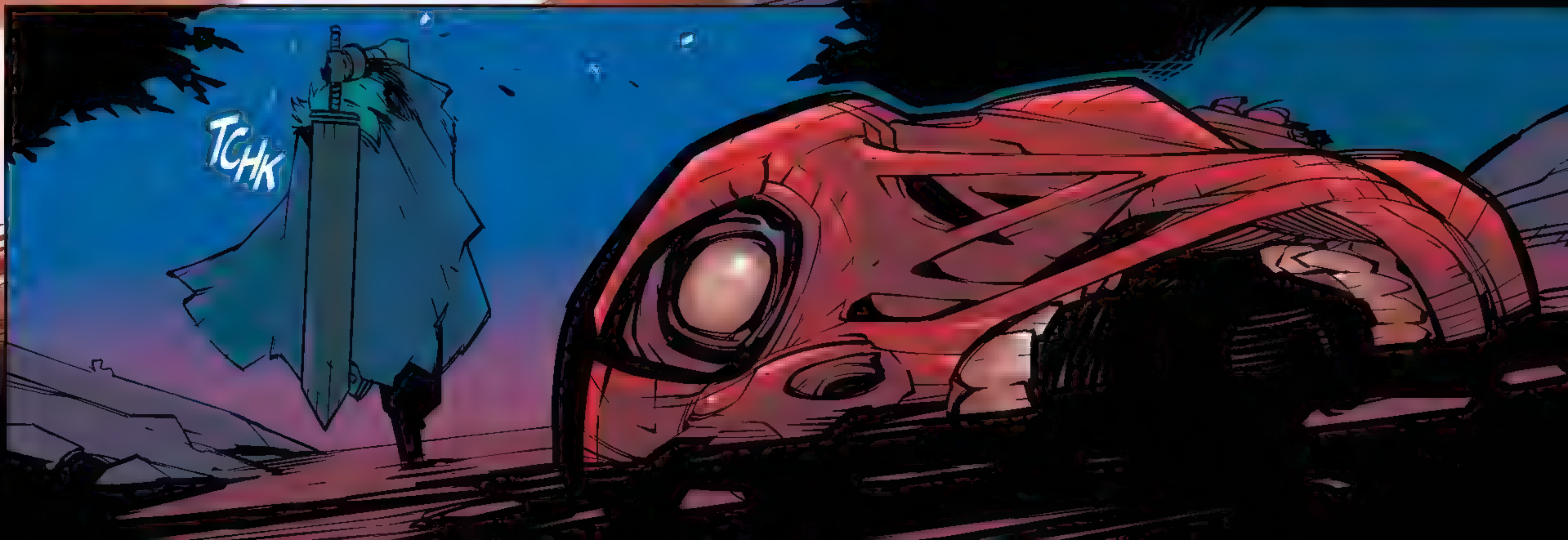
GRRRRRR!



SIN!
ONE OF THE
OTHERS
HAS COME
THROUGH.

PLISH

PLISH



HUFF HUFF
HUFF

GOTTA SAY,
RED, I'M
IMPRESSED.

KONIK

!!

DID
YOU KNOW
BLOODFEN CAN
DETECT WOUNDED
PREY FOR NEARLY
A MILE?

AND ONCE
THEY CATCH YOUR
SCENT...THEY WON'T
STOP TILL YOU'RE
DEAD...

GUESS
YOU'VE GOT
THAT IN
COMMON?

HEH. MY
SENSES ARE
MUCH SHARPER,
BUT YEAH...

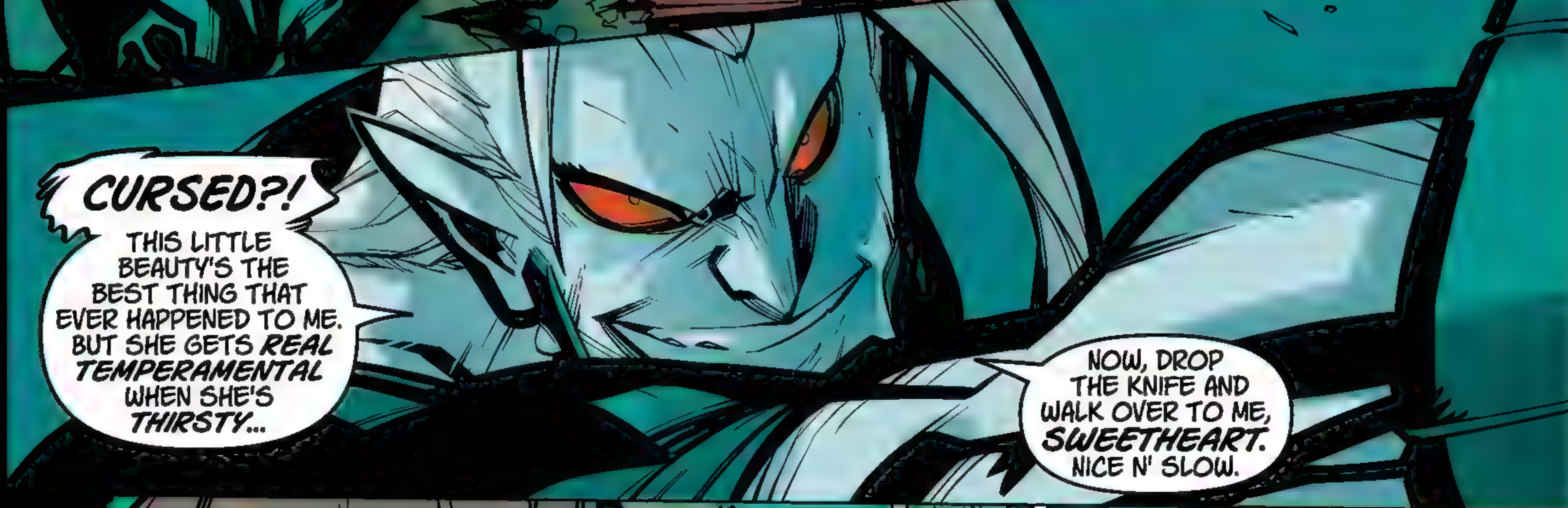


DID YOU GET BIT?

I-- DON'T THINK SO...

GOOD. YOUR BLOOD'S WORTHLESS TO ME IF IT'S FULL OF POISON--AND I NEED IT.

CURSED WEAPON, HUH? EVERYBODY'S GOT ONE THESE DAYS...



CURSED?!

THIS LITTLE BEAUTY'S THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME. BUT SHE GETS *REAL* TEMPERAMENTAL WHEN SHE'S THIRSTY...

NOW, DROP THE KNIFE AND WALK OVER TO ME, *SWEETHEART*. NICE N' SLOW.



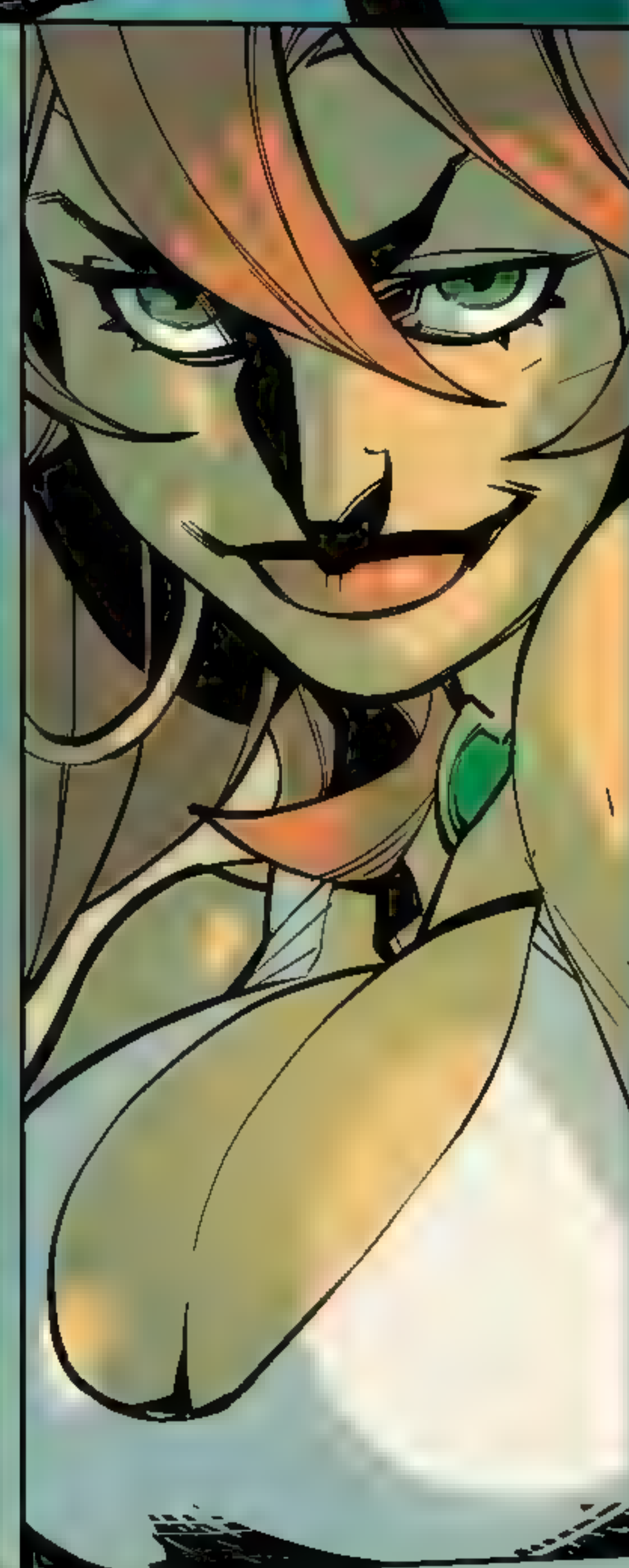
I'M WORTH MORE *ALIVE*, YOU KNOW?

TOO RISKY. YOU'RE WORTH *PLENTY* DEAD. MAYBE IF YOU WEREN'T SO DAMNED SLIPPERY...



IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE PLAY A LITTLE, *FIRST*?

HEH. SUIT YOURSELF DARLIN'.



Nearby...









GET OFF ME,
YOU BITCH!!

THWUD

HFF HFF
YOU'RE...
FUCKING
DEAD...

YOU
WANTED
TO PLAY.
LET'S PLAY.
HFF HFF

SPLOOSH

CLK
CLK
CLK

?!!

CLINKT
CLINKT

WHOOOPS.



NO...

QUICK,
THROW ME A VIAL!
HURRY!

I'll
LET YOU GO!
P-PLEASE...
AGH!

ARGHH!
N-NO!
WAIT!

SPLRCH **SPLRCH**
SPLRCH

SPLRCH

I'M
DRY...

TCHAK



G-GODDAMN
YOU...

VRRRRN



SPAK

NGH!

SHING

SHING

SHING

SHING

SHING

G-GUK...



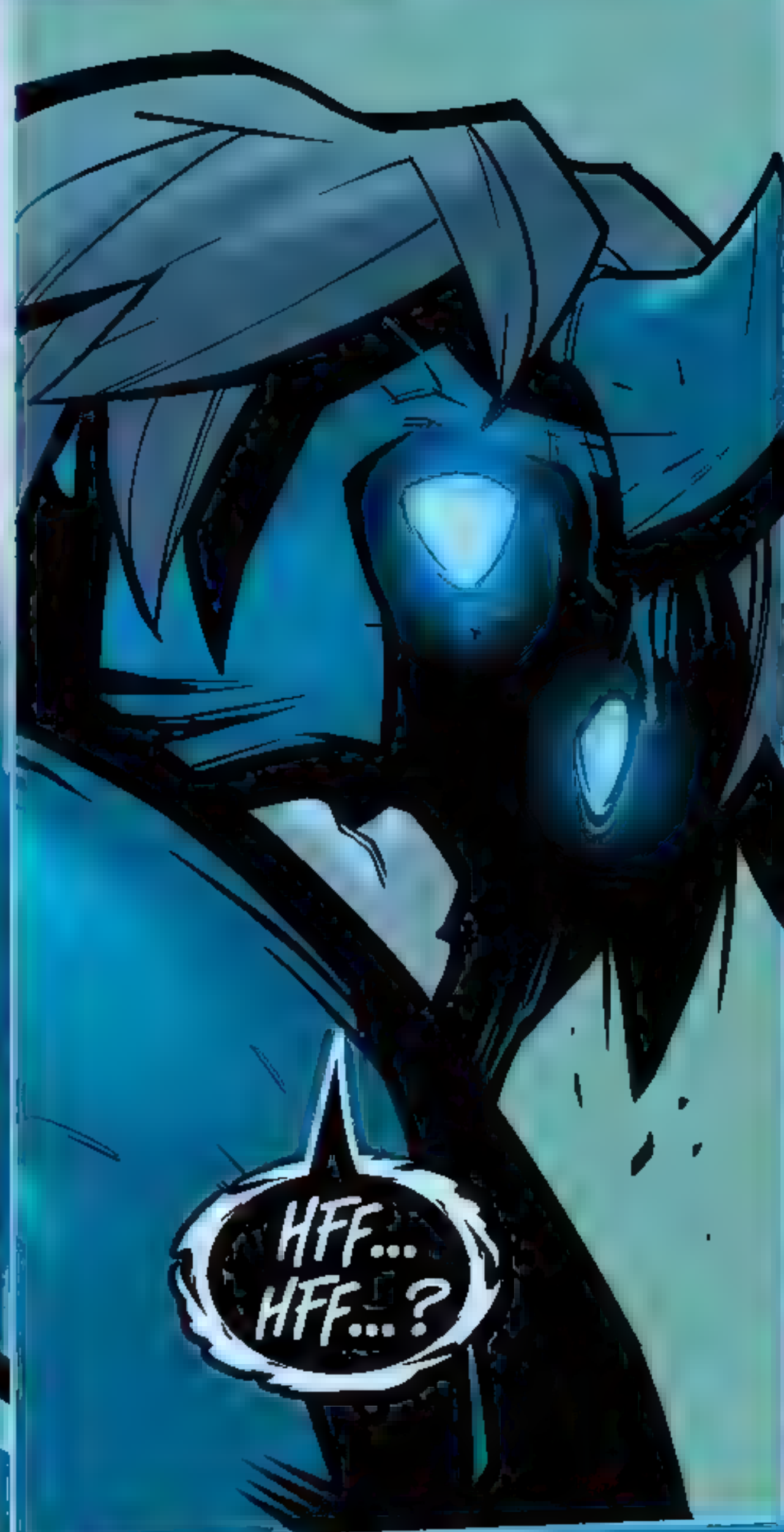
TSHHHH

HUFF
HUFF

GARRISON?!



OH, NO.
WHAT DID
YOU DO?



HFF...
HFF...?



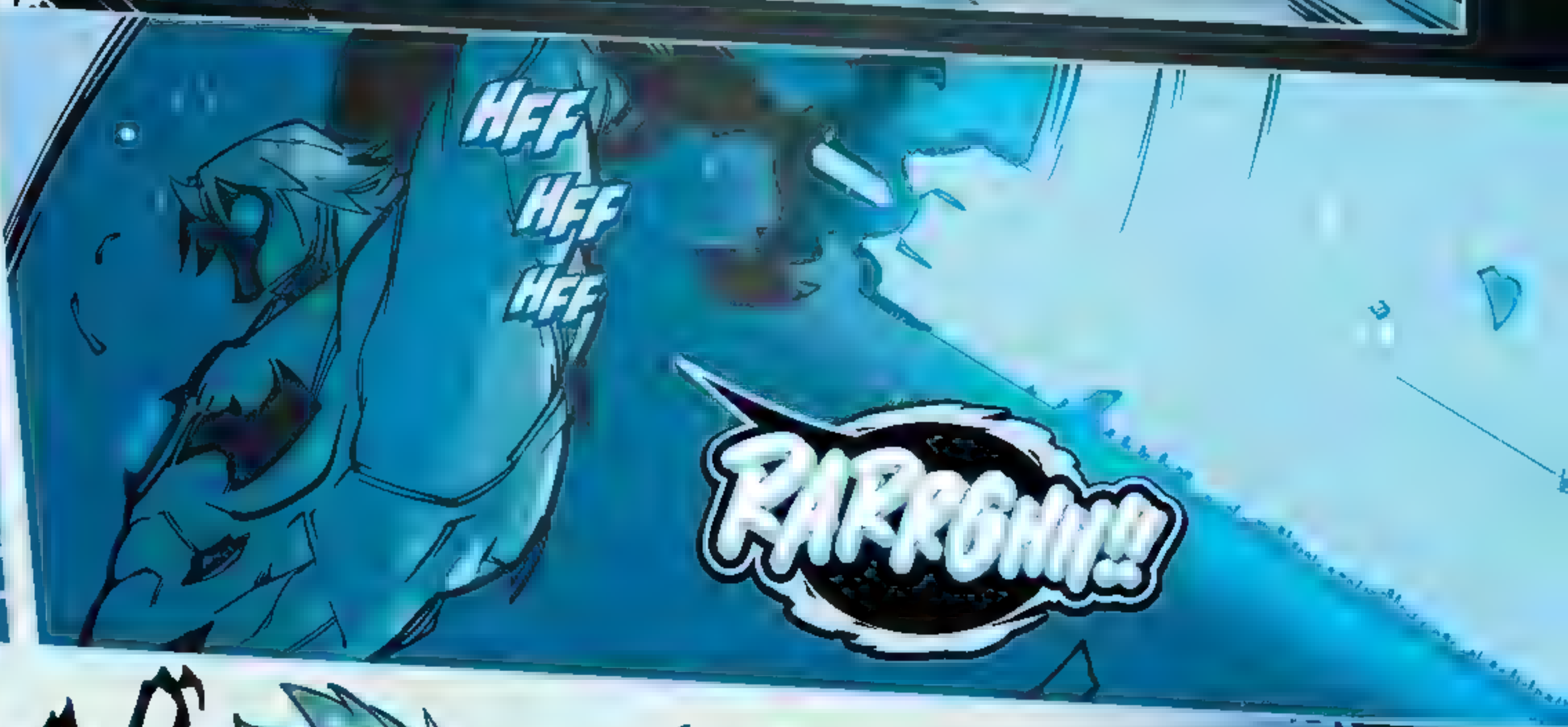
IT'S ME,
LOVE. IT'S
RED.

JUST
S-STAY
CALM, OKAY?
EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO
BE...



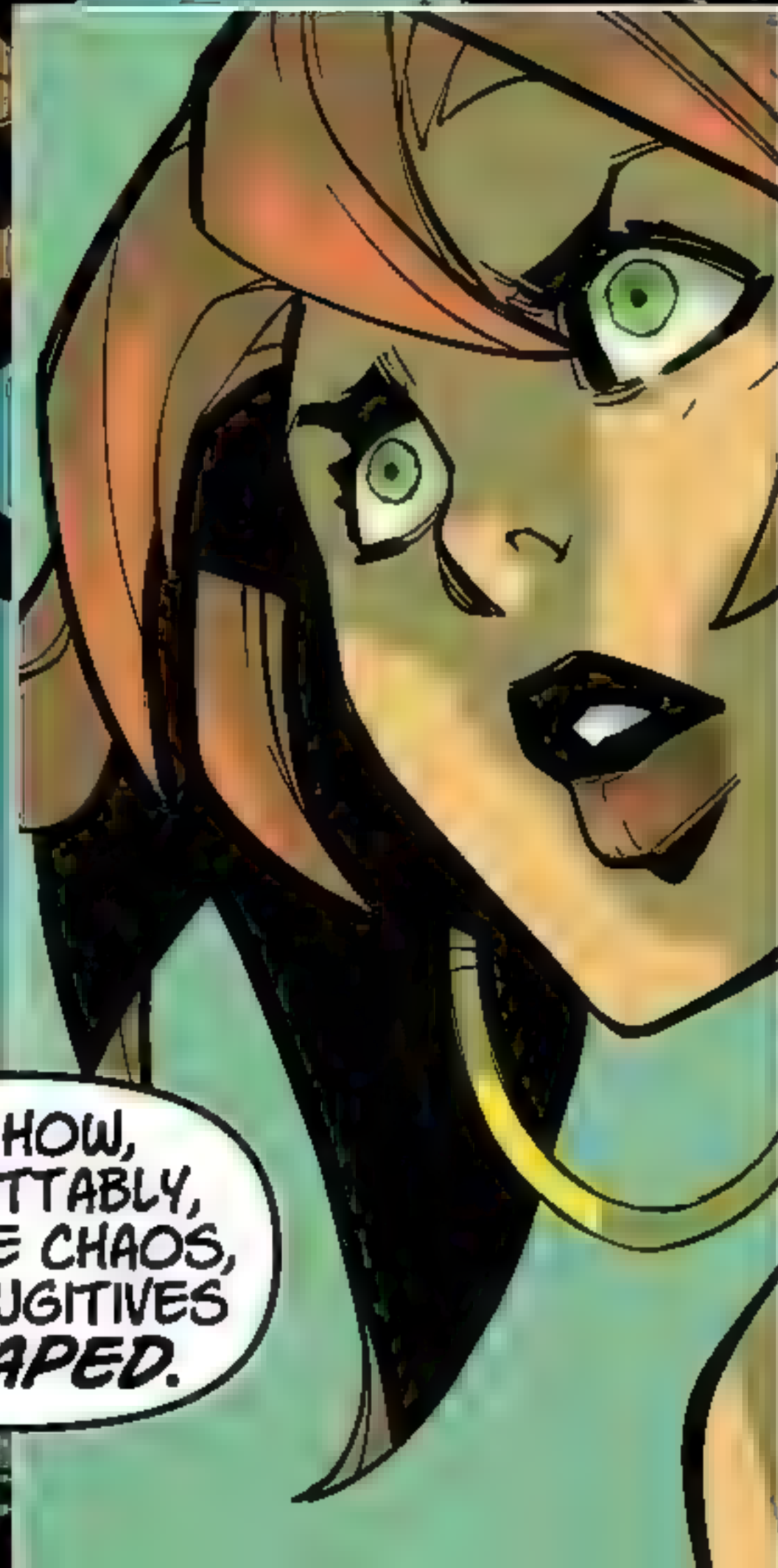
GRRRRAAGH!!

**GARRISON,
WAIT!**











TAKE GARRISON
SOMEPLACE FAR AWAY.
DISAPPEAR.

YOU WILL
NEVER HAVE THIS
CHANCE AGAIN.



AND PLEASE...
TRY NOT TO GET
HIM KILLED BEFORE
WE MEET AGAIN, I'M
GOING TO NEED
HIM SOON.



WHEN THE
TIME COMES...

I'LL FIND
YOU.

Capital City.
Military prison
'Warð 13'.

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP



TAP
TAP

SIGH.
WHAT NOW?



CAN'T
YOU SEE I'M
BUSY?



YOU WERE
WRONG!

WRONG
ABOUT THE
GLOVES.

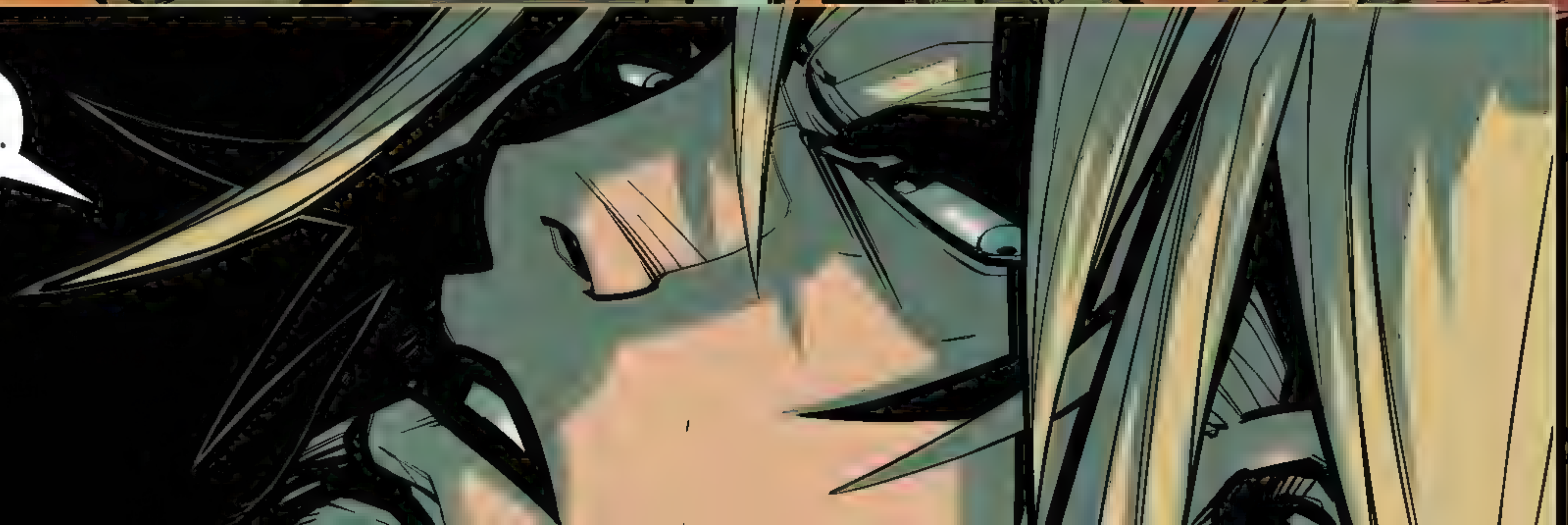
WRONG
ABOUT THE
KING.

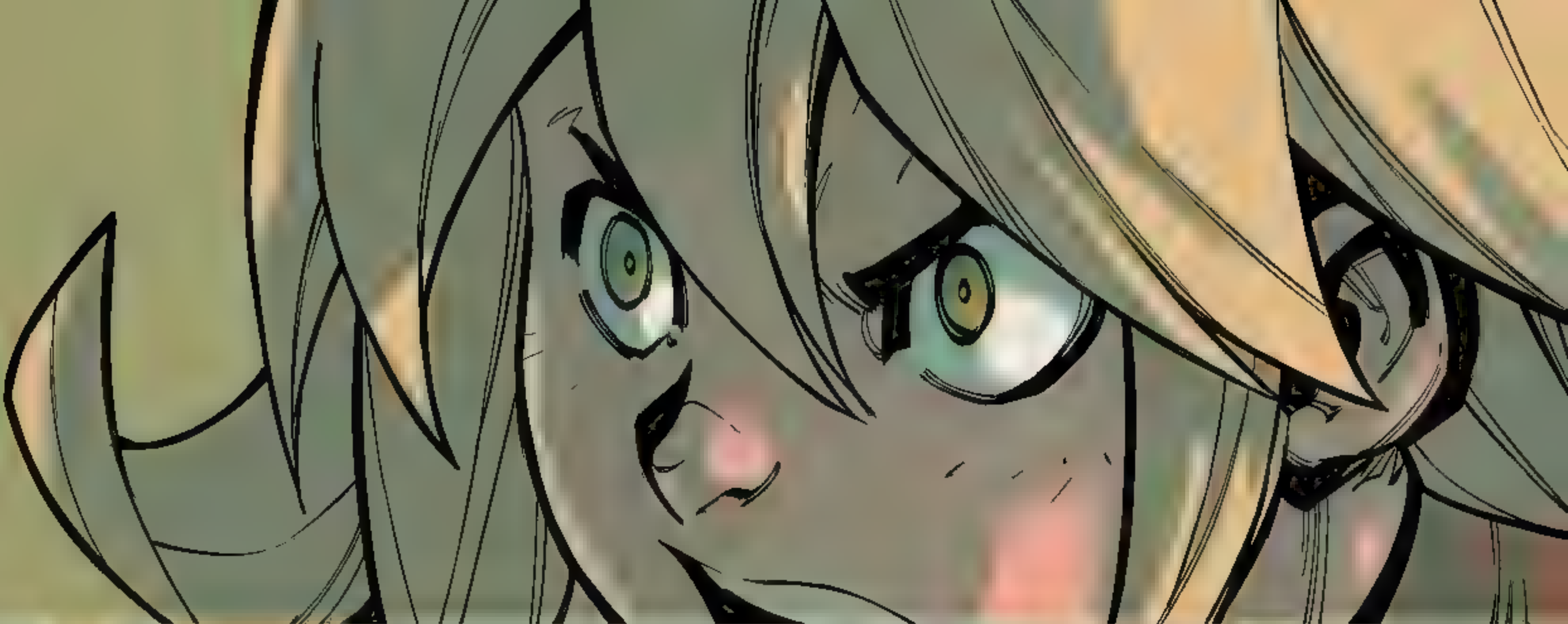
ABOUT
ME BEING A
PRISONER.



WRONG...
ABOUT MY
FATHER...

HMM. NO
ONE KNOWS
YOU'RE HERE.
DO THEY?

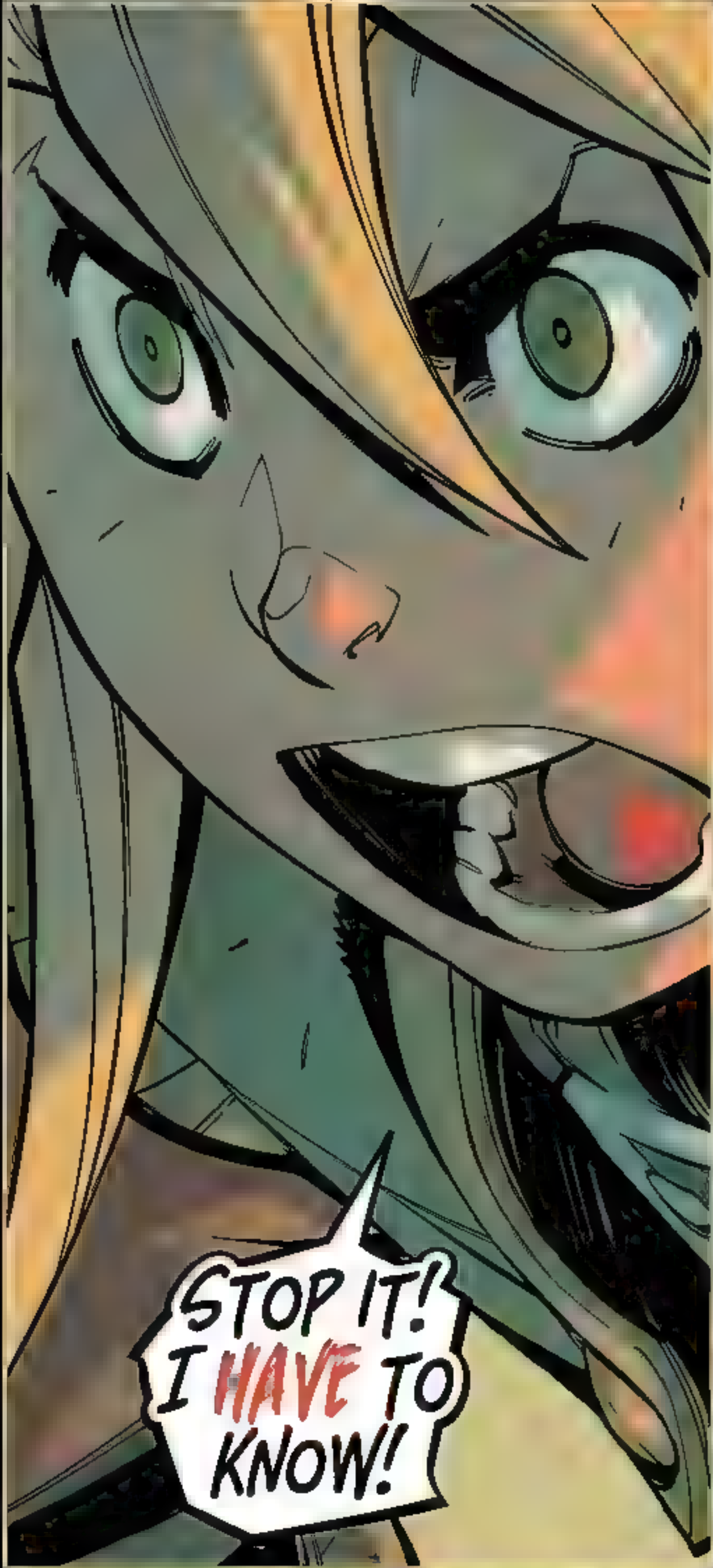




YOU'RE
NOT *REALLY*
MY BROTHER.
ARE YOU?



I AM.
OR, I'M *NOT*.
WHICH SCARES
YOU MOST?

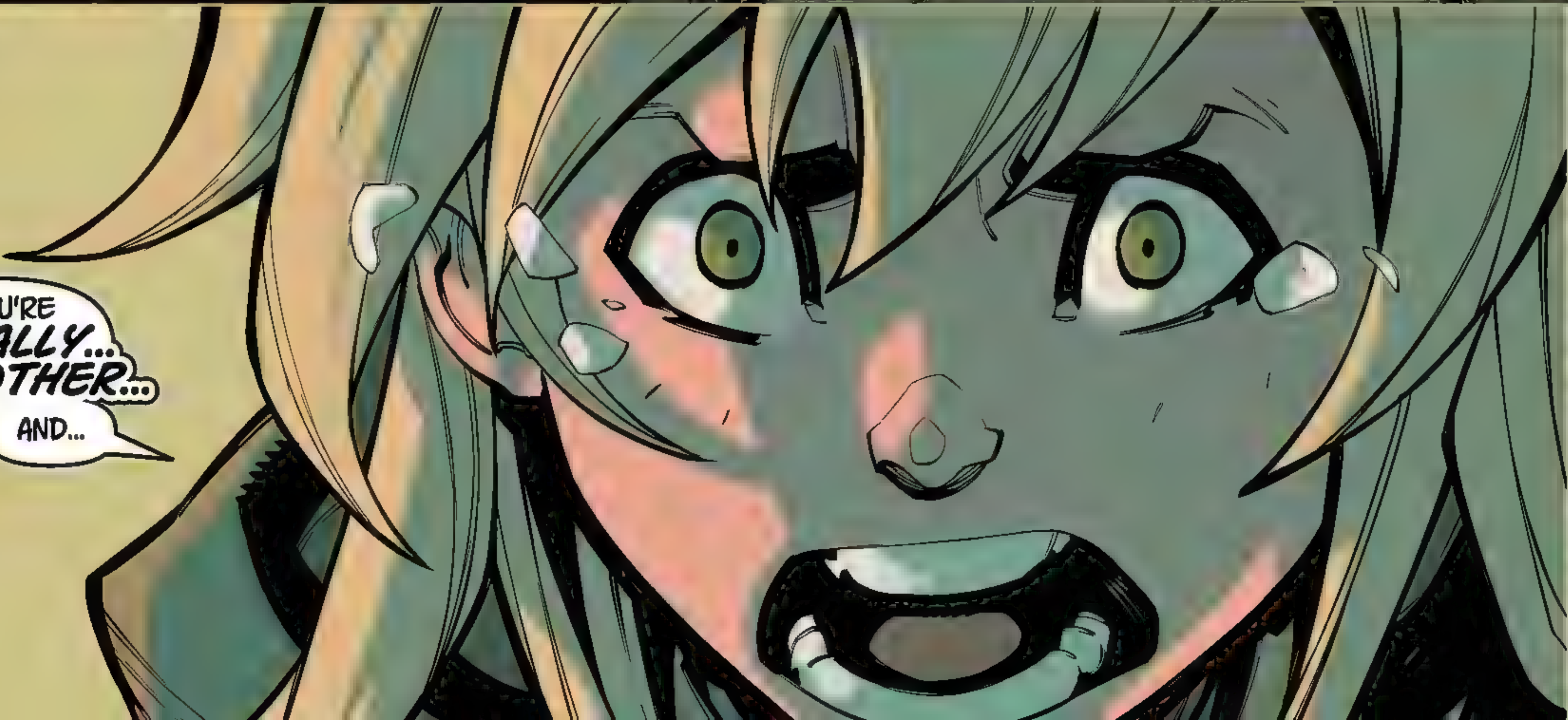


STOP IT!
I *HAVE* TO
KNOW!



I...HAVE
TO KNOW...
TONIGHT...

B-BECAUSE...
BECAUSE, WHAT IF
YOU ARE...?



IF YOU'RE
ACTUALLY...
MY BROTHER...
AND...



AND...
YOU'RE ALL THE
FAMILY I HAVE--
AND THEY
KILL YOU!

CAW

CAW

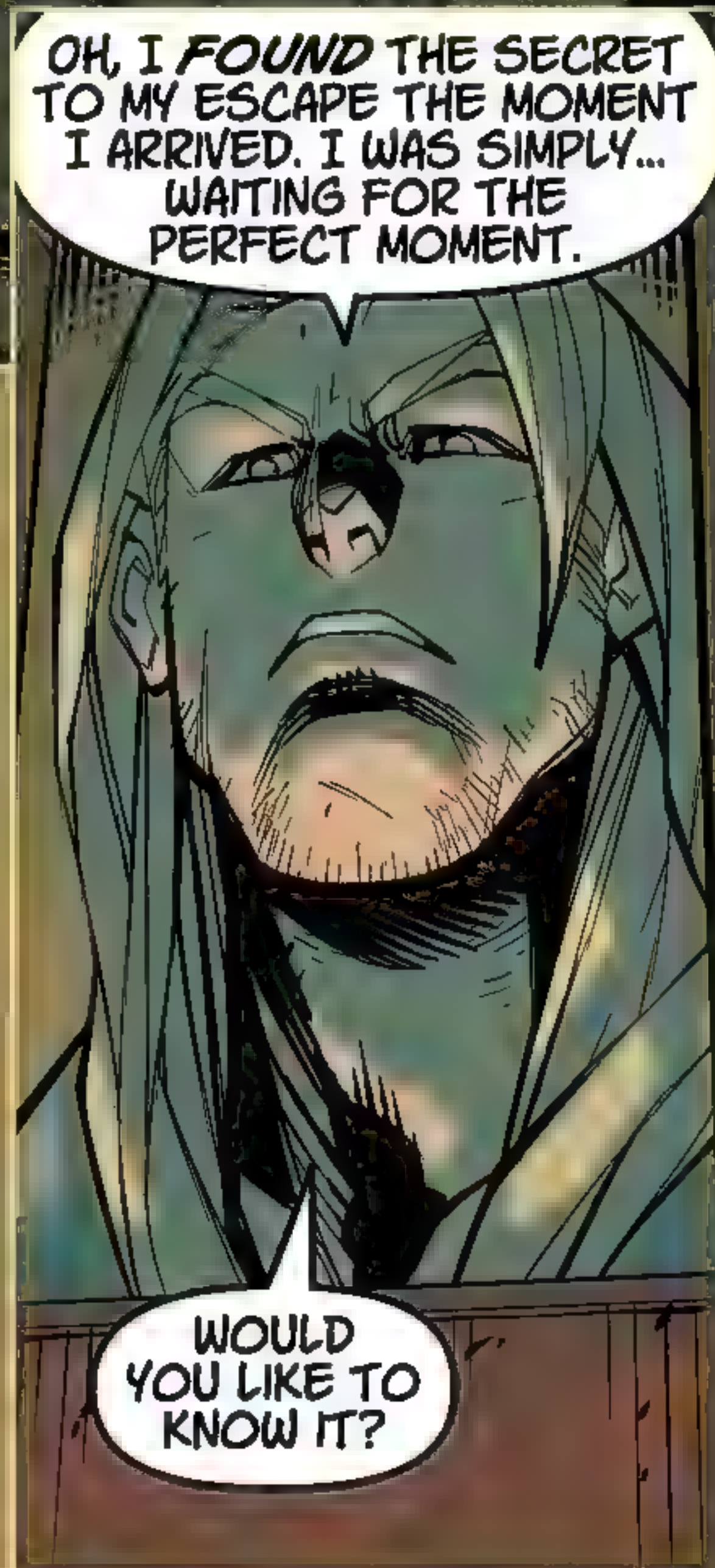
CAW



MY DEAR,
SWEET SISTER.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY--
THERE WILL BE NO
EXECUTION.

BY SUNRISE,
I'LL BE LONG
GONE.

WHAT?
HOW?



OH, I **FOUND** THE SECRET
TO MY ESCAPE THE MOMENT
I ARRIVED. I WAS SIMPLY...
WAITING FOR THE
PERFECT MOMENT.

WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
KNOW IT?

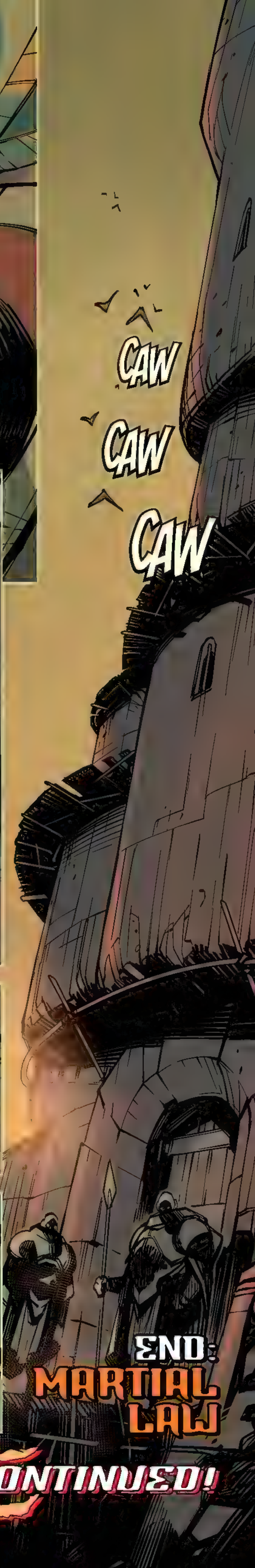


COME
CLOSER, AND
I'LL TELL
YOU.

CLOSER.
DON'T BE
AFRAID...



MY
SECRET,
IS...



END:
MARTIAL
LAW

TO BE CONTINUED!

DEAR READERS.

Thank you **SO** much to all you longtime **BATTLE CHASERS** fans who came back, and new readers who were curious enough to jump into the middle of a series on its 10th issue. Who does that?!

Thank you, Kickstarter backers, for making possible the Battle Chasers **GAME**, and all your patience and support since (yes, there's a game—Battle Chasers Nightwar, and it's awesome)! And a massive **THANK YOU** to Ludo, for his infinite energy and excitement every step of way. Thank you, Tyler and Comcraft, for making my clumsy words fun to read, and to Image Comics for still believing in this book 20 years later.

It's been an amazing, even emotional, experience jumping back into this world, with these characters. Ludo crushed it, as I knew he would, and we are both eager to make more. **BUT, WHEN?**

Going forward, the series will continue in story arcs like the one you just read, three to four issues in length. Those will hit monthly when they are available, with some time in between them—not unlike seasons of a TV show. It's an unusual format, but necessary given my full-time job in games and the limited time I have. I'd rather not release the book at all than release something I'm not proud of.

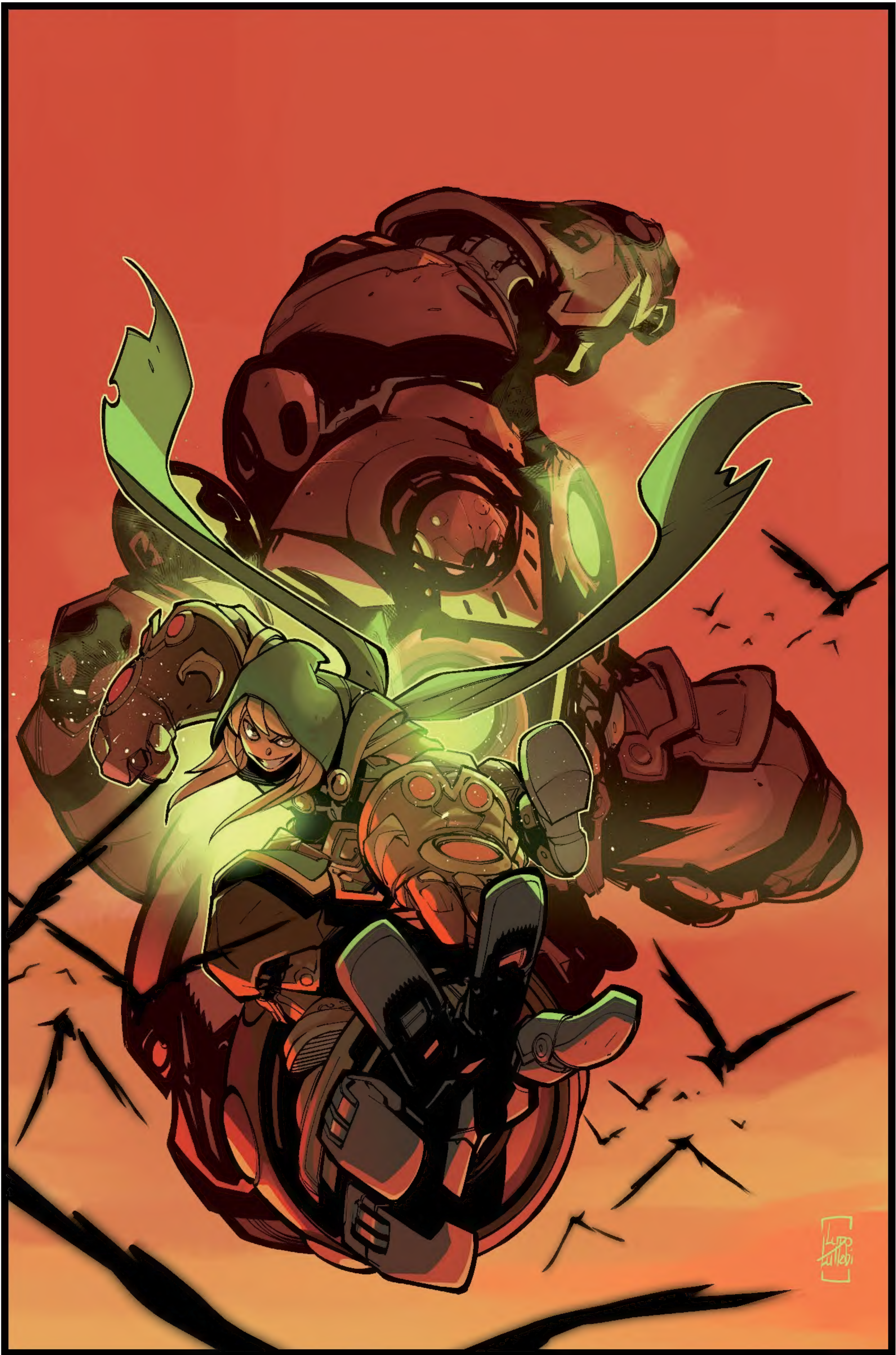
So, **BATTLE CHASERS #13** will kick off the next arc, and it's a special one that I've thought about (and dreaded) for a long time. I hope you'll all return for it. **UNTIL THEN!**

-Joe









COVER A by **LUDO LULLABI**

RATED **M** / MATURE